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USSR Report

POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS



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USSR REPORT
POLITICAL AND SOCIOLOGICAL AFFAIRS

CONTENTS

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

LiSSR CC Buro Cites Poor Economic Information (SOVETSKAYA LITVA, 25 Jun 86)	1
CPSU Party Control Committee Raps Tajik Officials (PRAVDA, 21 Aug 86)	3

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

Legal, Social Problems of Independent Video 'Cooperatives' (S. Sholokhov; LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA, 6 Jun 86)	6
BSSR Supreme Soviet Official on 'Glasnost' (G. Tarazevich; IZVESTIYA, 11 Jul 86)	11
Unissued Siberian Soviet Encyclopedia Volume in USSR Libraries (V. S. Poznanskiy; SOVETSKAYA TYURKOLOGIYA, No 1, 1986)	15

CULTURE

Loosening of Controls in Art Urged (V. Manin; IZVESTIYA, 15 Aug 86)	16
Aytmatov Defends New Controversial Novel (Chingiz Aytmatov Interview; LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, 13 Aug 86)	20
Klimov Discusses Changes in Movie Industry (E. G. Klimov Interview; PRAVDA, 9 Aug 86)	32

Theater Reform Fails To Address Major Problems (P. Monastyrskiy; SOVETSKAYA KULTURA, 5 Jul 86)	37
Chinese Comments on Soviet Movie Series (IZVESTIYA, 7 Jul 86)	41

SOCIAL ISSUES

USSR Justice Minister on Legal Services in Industry, State (Boris Vasilyevich Kravtsov Interview; KHOZYAYSTVO I PRAVO, No 6, Jun 86)	42
Supreme Court Official on Citizens' Criticism of Wrongdoings (A. M. Filatov; KHOZYAYSTVO I PRAVO, No 6, Jun 86)	51
Deputy Prosecutor Answers 'Phone-In' on Law Issues (Viktor Vasilyevich Naydenov; KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA, 7 Jun 86)	60
Economic Law Concepts Presented in New Textbook (A. Lebed, et al.; KHOZYAYSTVO I PRAVO, No 6, Jun 86)	70
Apprenticeships, Legal Accountability Proposed for Physicians (T. Kasumov; BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY, 29 Jun 86)	73
Measures Against Unearned Income Urged in KaSSR (KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA, 1 Jul 86)	76
Faulty Management Policies Beset Social, Economic Organizations (M. Salamatov; KOMSOMOLETS TURKMENISTANA, 9 Aug 86)	79
Musical-Instrument Smuggling Ring Blasted in Press (Stanislav Kosterin; SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA, 2 Aug 86)	82
Dissident 'Trade Union' Blasted for Past, Present Activities (R. Gegamyan; KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA, 13 Jul 86)	89
KaSSR: Trial Census in December 1986 (S. Naymushina, KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA, 4 Jul 86)	94

REGIONAL ISSUES

Georgian Dignitaries Visit Resettled Meskhetians (Mariam Lortkipanidze, Lasha Tabukashvili; KOMUNISTI, 2 Sep 86)	96
Economic Exploitation of TuSSR Desert Regions Urged (A. Batyrov; TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA, 16 May 86)	98

Western TuSSR Development Examined	
(G. Muradov; TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA, 14 Jun 86)	101
Turkmen Statistical Administration Work Viewed	
(M. Razhapov; TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA, 23 May 86)	105

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PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

LISSR CC BURO CITES POOR ECONOMIC INFORMATION

Vilnius SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 25 Jun 86 p 1

[Unsigned article: "At the Lithuanian CP Central Committee"]

[Text] The Lithuanian CP Central Committee Buro reviewed the efforts of the LiSSR Central Statistical Administration [CSA] to improve statistical reporting on the republic's economy in light of the requirements set forth at the 27th CPSU Congress.

It was noted that the republic CSA and its local statistical offices were not accomplishing the reorganization of their efforts in light of party and government requirements in a timely manner and not devoting enough attention to the reduction and simplification of accounting reports. Statistical reporting has remained complicated and labor intensive and the many indices and reports far exceed rational requirements and find no practical application. Ministries and departments make enterprises and organizations their wards and try to resolve day to day operations problems while continuing to demand reporting from them which is unrelated to the real achievements of operations management. The harmful practice of gathering and presenting various information not substantiated by statistical reporting is widespread in the State Committee for Supply of Petroleum Products and the ministries of construction, local and light industry, health and land reclamation and water resources.

The buro document directs the attention of the republic's CSA, ministries and departments to the necessity of substantially raising the level of economic operations, making factor analysis of economic phenomena more thorough, and ensuring the veracity and objectivity of report data. In statistical information at present an integrated approach to the study of economic problems and trends is often missing, and the level of indices analysis of production efficiency and operations efficiency in some segments of the economy is low. The Lithuanian CP Central Committee Buro committed the republic CSA to strict implementation of the 27th Party Congress's directives on improving work in statistics, reducing and simplifying statistical reporting and introducing strict government procedures into statistical reporting. CSA and its local statistical offices must improve their economic and methodological operations and also the quality and effectiveness of their statistical information. They must introduce more widely scientifically sound ways to quantify end results and prognoses based on the use of mathematical equipment and computer technology.

They must comprehensively reveal trends in the social and economic development of the republic based on an integrated analysis of statistical materials. The CSA and its offices must also focus their attention on the study and analysis of a dynamic and balanced development for the economy, on improvement in its structure and in growth rates of various sectors of the economy, especially those which determine scientific and technical progress. They should pay special attention to the pace at which republic integrated special-purpose programs are progressing and to the systematic dissemination of information on questions pertaining to the use of labor, material, and financial resources.

The CSA together with the republic Gosplan have been assigned the task of preparing proposals for improving statistical information support to city and rayon party committees, gorispolkoms and rayispolkoms in terms of both economy sector and geographical area. All state, party and social organizations are categorically forbidden to demand any type of data summaries or reports from enterprises and organizations unless they are provided for in state reporting procedures. Republic control agencies have been assigned the task of monitoring adjustments in reporting procedures at enterprises and organizations and of providing vigorous support to statistical offices in the fight against the inflation of statistical information as well as in calling to task those who do not request information in excess of state reporting requirements.

Effective elimination of the shortcomings and omissions in the work of the LiSSR CSA noted in the directive will promote further improvement in the managerial mechanism of the republic's economy as a whole.

The style and methods of operation of the CSA and its party buro need more improvement. Special attention must go to cadre selection, to raising professional competence, and also to the need to reevaluate workers who do not want to improve, who do not see in the figures a huge investment of human labor, and who do not learn to objectively and correctly evaluate events that occur. The party buro and the republic CSA are to make adjustments in the effective monitoring of the implementation of their own decisions and the decisions of management agencies.

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CSO: 1800/485

PARTY AND STATE AFFAIRS

CPSU PARTY CONTROL COMMITTEE RAPS TAJIK OFFICIALS

PM271020 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 21 Aug 86 First Edition p 3

[Unattributed report: "At the CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee. On the Irresponsible Attitude of Individual Tajik SSR Working People to the Fulfillment of Housing and Sociocultural Construction Plans"]

[Text] The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee has exposed serious shortcomings in housing and sociocultural construction in the Tajik SSR.

The decision adopted by the committee following the results of a check points out that in the 11th 5-Year Plan approximately R300 million, or almost one-fifth of the capital investments allocated to housing, social, consumer, and municipal construction was not assimilated in the republic. The commissioning of apartment blocks with a total area of 1.2 million square meters, general educational schools with 2,600 places, vocational and technical schools with 1,400 places, and preschool establishments with 4,100 places was frustrated. Many health care, cultural, and sports projects were not commissioned, and trade and consumer and municipal service enterprises were constructed particularly badly.

Tens of thousands of families in the republic need improved housing conditions, and there are long waiting lists for kindergartens and creches. One rayon center in every two does not have a house of culture, and two-thirds of population centers do not have club establishments or libraries. A number of schools still do not have electric lighting.

Leaders of local party and Soviet organs and of republic ministries and departments are not taking proper measures to rectify this situation and have not drawn the necessary conclusions from the demands of the CPSU Central Committee April (1985) Plenum and the 27th CPSU Congress concerning the need resolutely to turn attention to questions of the social sphere and completely overcome the underestimation of the urgent problems there.

In the first half of this year the quotas for construction and installation work were 91 percent assimilated by organizations of the republic Ministry of Construction (First Deputy Minister Comrade A.K. Bondar), but only 54 percent assimilated by organizations of the State Agroindustrial Committee (Deputy

Chairman Comrade A.D. Sukhanov). Dushanbe Gorispolkom (Chairman Comrade N. Shorakhmonov) fails to ensure the fulfillment of the targets set by the USSR Council of Ministers resolution of 23 June 1983 "On Measures To Further Develop Dushanbe City's Municipal Services in 1984-1990." Over the past 2 years far less housing and far fewer general educational schools and pre-school establishments have been constructed in the city than provided for in the resolution, and a hospital for war and labor veterans, a summer movie theater, and certain municipal projects have not been commissioned.

Serious shortcomings are continuing to occur in the planning and observance of project construction deadlines, and dissipation of capital investments is continuing. Volumes of uncompleted construction are constantly growing and totalled R207 million by the beginning of this year.

The integrated development of cities, new city districts, and also rural population centers is being violated. Capital investments are being channeled chiefly into housing construction, while the construction of sociocultural projects is lagging behind by 3-5 years or more. Proper attention is not devoted to individual and cooperative housing construction, and the targets for commissioning apartment blocks with the population's own resources are not met.

The quality of the housing being commissioned and of projects in the social sphere is low. Gross technological violations have been exposed at one construction project in every four. Houses and social and consumer establishments continue to be commissioned with major defects, frequently without electricity, water, gas, or elevators, and with incomplete work on the installation of equipment and the provision of amenities.

The leadership of the republic Ministry of Construction is unsatisfactorily tackling the development of its own production base. Construction industry enterprises are being constructed and enlarged with great laggardness. At many enterprises the technology is backward, and structures for apartment blocks and sociocultural and consumer projects are produced according to plans for obsolete series.

The Tajik SSR Gosstroy (Chairman Comrade V.A. Yakubov) makes serious blunders in drawing up planning estimates. In many cases the standard plans recommended by it for apartment blocks and public buildings do not meet modern demands. Planning organizations are bad at studying technical and economic questions, and architectural supervision of construction is of a low standard.

The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee issued reprimands, entered in their record cards, to Comrade A.K. Zondar, Tajik SSR first deputy minister of construction, and Comrade N. Shorakhmonov, chairman of Dushanbe Gorispolkom, both CPSU members, for systematic nonfulfillment of housing and sociocultural construction plans, low quality of work, and the handover and commissioning of projects with defects. Comrade A.D. Sukhanov, deputy chairman of the republic State Agroindustrial Committee, was reprimanded

for failing to take proper measures to eliminate the shortcomings in the planning and construction of social sphere projects in the countryside and failing to fulfill the plan for the first 6 months of 1986.

Comrade V.A. Yakubov, CPSU member and chairman of the Tajik SSR Gosstroy, was reprimanded for lack of proper control over observance of urban development discipline, over the introduction of new economical planning decisions into production, and over the quality of the planning estimates drawn up and of the construction of apartment blocks and sociocultural projects.

The attention of Comrade A.N. Kuznetsov, USSR deputy minister of construction, was drawn to the lack of effective control over the development of subordinate construction industry enterprises in the Tajik SSR and to the failure to provide the said projects with planning estimates, finance, and equipment on schedule.

The CPSU Central Committee Party Control Committee drew the attention of leaders of the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee and the republic Council of Ministers to the low standard of leadership of housing and sociocultural construction. Note was taken of a statement by Comrade T. Mirkhalikov, secretary of the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee, and Comrade Yu.P. Zatsarinnyy, deputy chairman of the republic Council of Ministers, that party and Soviet organs, ministries, and departments will take the necessary measures to fundamentally restructure the organization and management of the construction of housing, sociocultural, and municipal projects in the light of the 27th CPSU Congress demands and will ensure the fulfillment of the set plans and targets.

/9738

CSO: 1830/724

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

LEGAL, SOCIAL PROBLEMS OF INDEPENDENT VIDEO 'COOPERATIVES'

Leningrad LENINGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jun 86 p 2

[Article by S. Sholokhov: "On the Crest of the Video Waves. The Video Cassette: Lessons and Paradoxes of Fashion"]

[Text] Periodically a number of prophecies spring up around art, generally related to the development of technology. When the movies appeared, the inevitable fading of the theater was predicted. When television appeared, it was asserted that the days of the cinema were numbered. But life goes on, and it gradually becomes clear that the traditional forms of art can get on perfectly well with the "technical" ones, although there is a definite regrouping of forces.

Something similar can be observed now, when a new phenomenon is being ever more persistently introduced into our spiritual sphere -- the video cassette. It has come into service under the nickname "video", which also implies the technical means -- video equipment, and a motley assortment of "ready goods," from art films, television programs, and concerts to amateur movies. The capabilities of video are extremely varied, and if you have the equipment you can record and show on your home screen whatever you choose.

And what convenience, what previously unheard of comfort lies in this novelty! You can replay at any time a television program that you like, "immortalize" a family holiday, or record an interesting football match for your friends... And all this without any tape or sound track, and without the many complications I imagine amateur film makers encounter.

No, whatever you say, video is a great thing in the home. And it is not surprising that it is getting more and more advocates.

But...it has quite rapidly become clear that apart from being a great thing, there are aspects that are not always happy. And on closer examination one discovers that as time goes on the problems get larger and larger. So that overall, it is not so simple to be the owner of this fashionable technical novelty.

Why? Let's take a look together at the situation that has developed. For a beginning, let's ask a question that actually faces many people: what kind of

cassettes can be used?

FOR RENT... IN BACK ALLEYS

So, you have bought a VCR... According to the data of the sociologists that puts you right away among those who already account for more than 10 percent of all the film consumption in our city. In Leningrad alone more than 3,000 VCRs of domestic manufacture have been sold, plus the foreign-made VCRs than have been sold in commission shops for more than five years. And when you consider that, according to the observations of the sociologists of the movies, each VCR accounts for approximately 500 man-films, you get a picture that we can title with the broad term "video boom."

The manager of the municipal video shop, Ye. V. Zorina fully agrees with this evaluation. To be sure, she has some reservations about it: "Although the number of customers of our shop is steadily growing, there are approximately 200 steadies among them."

Here is the first paradox to make you think. The municipal video shop, which is intended to rent cassettes, has been in business since October of last year, but the majority of VCR owners are in no hurry to make use of its services, but prefer to join so-called "video cooperatives."

Is it that the government method of service is not yet competitive when compared with independent "cooperation"?

I won't conceal that I was disappointed to discover the municipal video shop behind the "Leningrad" movie theater -- literally in the back alley. The wind blew scraps of newspaper and raised a thick dust -- back alleys are seldom swept. Maybe this is not the most important thing, but Ye. V. Zorina is right to complain that "a new business should not be started in a back alley." In Moscow, for example, the video shop and video salon are located on Arbat, right in the center of town. It sounds funny to say that our video shop could not even get a new television set to replace its elderly one. But the main concern, of course, is the selection. It is primarily made up of movies available for rent on film. A total of 450 titles. This is mainly the output of our movie studios in recent years. A video shop has a definite advantage: a cassette with a new, just released movie can be rented a month before it appears on the wide screen. However, this very principle of putting on video cassettes almost all the output of the movie industry can hardly be approved. Strict selection is called for. Will a viewer pay three rubles to rent a movie recorded on cassette, if the picture will not entice him to a movie theater at 50 kopecks? And the issue is not just the quality of these films, but the fact that video consumption is different in principle from movie consumption. On no account should video shops duplicate film rental. The selection of them is now made up exclusively of new films from our movie studios, rather than by transferring to video cassettes, for example, domestic and foreign classics, which movie theaters show again very rarely or not at all.

This problem can be solved, in all likelihood, even without leaving the confines of the ministry to which video shops are subordinate, namely, Gosfilm.

It must be kept in mind, however, that video is not a means of supplying just art films to the home. The scope of interests and the capabilities of a video shop must be much broader.

A special All-Union Videofilm Association has now been established, which we hope will ensure the video recording of interesting theatrical shows, concert programs, and sports broadcasts. For the third quarter of 1986 Soyuzkinofond has already planned about 30 original video programs, including special-interest programs containing varied and undoubtedly useful information, such as that for car and gardening enthusiasts, for the young family, for sports fans, etc. It has been a good idea to set up special video courses for those studying foreign languages. The same goal can be achieved by showing domestic films dubbed in foreign languages (such video shops exist in Moscow, but why aren't there any in Leningrad?), and by the rental of non-dubbed festival tapes.

The interface between video and television deserves special mention.

THE CLUB -- REALITY OR DREAM?

Do you like the program "The Disks Are Spinning?" If it is popular with TV viewers, then a cassette recording of the series should be in the video shop. To stay at home by the TV set and record everything of interest in succession is a troublesome and time-consuming affair.

"Television does not now have the facilities for reproducing on cassette specific broadcasts for rental by video shops," states R. V. Nikolayev, chairman of the Leningrad Committee for Television and Radio Broadcasting. "But if an interested organization wants to undertake the job of recording, we will furnish it with the appropriate materials."

One would think that the very fact that the best TV programs are video recorded would be an additional moral (and possible material) incentive for improving program quality, increasing the number of viewers, and further developing many forms of TV.

But when we speak of growth prospects, we inevitably come up against an impasse. So far, video shops are oriented just toward satisfying private customers. No organization, even if it has acquired a VCR, can take advantage of video rentals...

This is the second great paradox in the path of investigating this problem: all public forms of video cassette rental from a video shop are precluded by a simple and banal factor -- the lack of a system of impersonal accountability. As a result, dozens and hundreds of VCRs are sitting on the shelves of various organizations.

A way out of this impasse must certainly be found, and then the selection that now exists in a municipal video shop will be at the service of schools and PTU [vocational schools], houses and palaces of culture, creative societies and rural clubs, and workers' and students' hostels. Then it will be feasible to

set up video clubs for special interests, and this truly effective form of information will become a good aid in indoctrinational work, and will help to make our free time more interesting and substantive. But our thoughts hurry on ever further: then every teacher will not have to depend on recording educational programs (let's plainly admit that this is not very convenient for a school), and every specialist will be able to order from a video shop a program that he needs for his work.

But let's leave our dreams and return to reality. If the schools are still waiting for their hour, the youth cafes are wasting no time. Whether there is a video shop or not, you can get by with your own resources, so they think at the cafes. If you have the equipment, the rest will follow...

What is it they add to a cup of coffee in the youth cafes? Their special VCRs produce a collage of effective variety TV shows, highlights of sports events, multifilms, and again variety musical interludes.

For example, the young people are not quick to leave the Cafe Flora, where they can see video musicals seldom seen on our TV programs. And we reluctantly admit how well this genre is suited to the very nature of video: while a song is being sung the action shifts in space and time in highly unexpected ways, the scenery is constantly changing, and the entire subject is developed in some three to five minutes. You have the sense of watching a brief film.

It would seem that disk jockeys have become much more enterprising than many cultural workers.

The youth audience has a keen appetite for the musical review genre. But... we again recall the empty shelves of the video shop. This popular genre shows up there only as a benefit performance of Lyudmila Gurchenko and a few recordings of broadcasts of the music publishing house of Central TV. Far too little...

SIDE EFFECTS OF THE BOOM

And finally, the third paradox, of which we should speak quite frankly. We have already referred to the so-called "cooperatives." Even before the municipal video shop had been set up, these independent associations had started spontaneously -- VCR owners were exchanging cassettes, which was on the whole perfectly natural: a cassette is an expensive item, and not everyone has the means of setting up a video shop at home. And it is understandable for still another reason: as long as the sphere of government services is operating with flaws, and meeting only a small part of the public's demand, these "video coops" will continue to function, whether we like it or not.

But here is something that is not natural. The birth and rapid development of this new art form has taken many people by surprise not only from the organizational and economic points of view, but also from the legal one: nobody has given the owner of this new technology any clear foundation as to what may be video recorded and what may not, and what are the allowable limits for exchanging cassettes and recording them that do not violate the law. Here is

one curious example. In many countries the film companies forbid the video recording of new films for one year from their appearance on the screen; with us it is the other way around -- a video shop will rent a film prior to its showing in the city's movie theaters.

There have been many unclear issues, lack of understanding, and unsolved problems. And, as so often happens, these gaps have been plugged up in ways different from what we might have wished. "Video speculation" has made its appearance, and here and there underground "firms" have sprung up that put out a product that is far from being a good model. It has even gotten to the distribution and copying of outright pornography that has infiltrated from abroad. Several trials in a number of cities, including Leningrad, have issued a sharp but highly necessary reminder: relics of the past and trifles are not permissible in the area of culture, or of ideological and indoctrinational work. These warnings are in appropriate amendments recently adopted by the legal system in a number of republics -- they provide prosecution for the side effects of the video boom which we mentioned above.

In a word, smart operators who want to live on the crest of fashion have been given a reliable backstop. And this once again convinces us of how important it is to promptly solve problems that develop, no matter how complicated they may seem. It is even more difficult to correct oversights...

This is why we cannot now say that the development of this new art form -- video -- in our city has been completely satisfactory. Problems remain. They require unabated attention. Perhaps it would be a good idea to set up a special sociological group under the Institute of the Theater, Music, and Cinematography, which already has similar groups studying current problems of music and the theater. Perhaps there should be more vigorous use of the independent energy of the video cooperatives and proper channelling of it.

There may be highly diversified solutions. But there is one essential condition: there must be a businesslike approach and constructive attitude by all interested parties. There is much food for thought here for the services industry, for the Main Administration for Culture, and for the video rental business. Video is a new and promising thing, and the more vigorously it is dealt with by those responsible for its future, the more happiness this novelty will bring us.

12697
CSO: 1800/364

MEDIA AND PROPAGANDA

BSSR SUPREME SOVIET OFFICIAL ON 'GLASNOST'

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jul 86 p 2

[Article by G. Tarazevich, chairman, Presidium of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet: "Publicity [Glasnost] in the Work of the Soviets"]

[Text] Several years ago, the effort to widen publicity on the work of the Gomel Oblast Soviet began to assume a systematic nature owing to the persistent efforts of the soviet. Displays of various materials and documents appeared in libraries, clubs, palaces of culture and places accessible to the public. These materials include descriptions of land under the soviet's jurisdiction, a description of the okrugs, a list of the deputies, a list of the executive committee workers and the range of their responsibilities, their office hours for citizens, a list of the orders and the progress in fulfilling them, information on the response to proposals suggested by deputies and voters, and the decisions of the soviets and their organs.

The soviets of Gomel Oblast attach special significance to publicity on their meetings. As an example, preparations were being made for a meeting of the oblast soviet during which progress in fulfilling a decree of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet on the work of the Belorussian soviets to implement the Food Program was to be discussed. Deputies of the oblast soviet and the chairmen, deputy chairmen and secretaries of the executive committees of rayon and city soviets took part in the preparations. They spoke to the labor collectives and presented the basic provisions of the report to be given at the forthcoming meeting. Around 500 meetings were held, during which over 2,000 voters stated numerous critical remarks and proposals. Materials were systematically published in GOMELSKAYA PRAVDA under the rubric "The Meeting of the Oblast Soviet of Peoples Deputies." Proposals made before the meeting were generalized and submitted to the executive committee's departments and administrations. The most serious of these proposals were accounted for in the annual plan of the oblast's economic and social development.

The soviets of Gomel Oblast attach special significance to holding their meetings locally. For example ways to improve the working conditions and life of workers at a starting engine plant were examined during a meeting of the Sovetskiy Rayon Soviet in Gomel at this enterprise's club. First a sociological study was conducted and questionnaires were distributed; over 500 workers

answered the letter. The answers were carefully analyzed. Then followed a substantial discussion, and an integrated program for improving the working conditions and life of the plant workers was entered into the resolution.

Permanent commissions do their work in the public eye. Specialists of the national economy, veterans of labor and active party members regularly take part in their meetings. As a rule these are people with good experience in life and work, they are highly knowledgeable, and they have good organizational capabilities.

Departments and administrations of the executive committee of the oblast soviet celebrate Soviet worker days regularly, once every 2 or 3 months, in the rayons, while the rayon executive committees organize such days in the towns and rural soviets. "Open Letter Day" and "Rural Soviet Day" are gaining more and more substance.

We are trying to introduce the publicity system developed by Gomel Oblast into the entire republic. But of course, we are not copying it exactly. In Minsk, for example, executive committees and their departments and administrations have a well organized system of reporting to labor collectives and residential complexes. Last year they held around 800 such meetings. These meetings not only help to strengthen the ties between the soviets and the masses, but they also serve as an effective means of monitoring the work of the soviet and its executive committee from bottom up. Over a thousand and a half remarks addressed to soviet and economic organs of Minsk were voiced in response to the reports. All of these remarks were examined by the departments and administrations, and responses have been already made to half of them: The work of city personal, trade and transportation services has improved, and much has been done to improve the city.

Deputy production groups actively promote publicity. There are over a hundred such groups--over a thousand and a half deputies--at the capital's enterprises and organizations. They regularly provide information to blue and white collar workers on the activities of local government organs and on decisions of the executive committees, and they reveal the needs of the people. For example the tractor plant's deputy production group managed to respond efficiently to proposals by the workers for improving personal conditions at work.

The importance of regular accountability reports by executive committees and by executives of different administrative organs to labor collectives and public meetings was emphasized in decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress. In Belorussia ministry and department executives regularly give accountability reports. People attending meetings in which these reports are given ask many questions and offer many suggestions. This is why the practical return from such reports cannot be doubted: Things in trade, in personal services and in public health are improving noticeably.

The criteria of publicity are different today: We can no longer be satisfied by those of its forms to which we had resorted previously. We need to change the way of thinking of our personnel, we need to reorient them toward a full

discussion of acute problems, toward complete revelation of negative phenomena and toward frank discussion with the people.

This is precisely the spirit in which a discussion was recently held at a meeting of the Presidium of the Belorussian SSR Supreme Soviet. The work of the soviets of peoples deputies of Grodno Oblast concerned with improving the system for informing the public about the activities of soviet organs and ensuring the reliability and objectivity of such information was on the agenda. This discussion was a surprise to many: After all, Grodno Oblast is one of the best in the republic. But as the discussion showed, here as well there are many reserves for economic growth and social development. The main thesis of the whole meeting was this: All that is done in the region must be improved under the watching eye of the voters and under their control. As it turned out, many executive committees of Grodno Oblast do little to encourage deputies to prepare for their meetings, and they do not acquaint them beforehand with the materials of the forthcoming discussion. Reports are not sufficiently critical sometimes, while the speakers lack self-criticism. Such was the case, as an example, with the reports given by planning commission chairman L. Kardash and financial department director F. Bozhko at a meeting of the oblast soviet, during which the results of fulfilling the economic and social development plan for the previous year were discussed. There was no deep analysis or critical assessment of the situation in the reports; nor were the names of those who were working poorly mentioned.

In a meeting of the Voronovskiy Rayon Soviet, a report was given on the work of the executive committee's culture department. The resolution adopted in response consisted of two items: taking the information into consideration and correcting the deficiencies. These evasive and hackneyed phrases said nothing, except that the soviet was limiting itself to a formal attitude toward the work. This is why 3 months later it was noted at another meeting that no changes had occurred in the work of cultural and educational institutions. And yet, such changes were urgently needed: Five rural clubs were in a disastrous state, six required major reconstruction, and seven were not ready for winter work.

Unfortunately some executives of oblast, rayon and city organizations and services have not yet recognized the importance of the need for keeping the public informed fully. Last year as an example deputy I. Grinashkevich, the first deputy chairman of the oblast agroindustrial complex, gave an accountability report only once.

There is one other shortcoming in the work of public information. It is still oriented more on illuminating the accomplishments than on critically assessing the mistakes. The soviets frequently fail to show concern for widening publicity in regard to acute problems such as assigning apartments, issuing passes to sanatoriums and vacation homes, raising wages, granting various bonuses and so on. These things are still often done without the participation of the collectives, which is why disputes arise and people have to go to higher levels to resolve them. And the best way to avoid complaints is to get people to give truthful answers and respond to requests

immediately. Truthful answers are a manifestation of publicity. Soviets and all state and economic organs are obligated to follow the principles of publicity consistently in all of their activity, in their communication with people and in their work with letters, complaints and proposals.

Seeking counsel with the people, lending a sensitive ear to public opinion--such are the immutable rules for each soviet worker, each deputy. Unfortunately not all meetings in which deputies and workers of executive committees and their departments and administrations give accountability reports encourage those attending to engage in frank discussion of opinion. If a report fails to reveal the jagged edges or to assume a critical stance in relation to certain issues, there is no good reason to discuss such a report. There is another thing that happens as well: A meeting might have been interesting, and people might have confronted the issues directly, but no one heeds their remarks or proposals. Consequently open discussion of the problems produces no results, which undermines the main goal of publicity--encouraging people to act.

I would like to talk specially about the reliability of information. It is very uncomfortable in the glare of publicity for those who still work half-heartedly or who cover up the true state of affairs. The soviets must bring forth for public discussion all violations of state discipline, abuses of official position and so on decisively and uncompromisingly. And after the discussion, the people must be informed about the measures taken. Only in this way will we be able to rid ourselves more quickly of all that hinders our fast movement forward.

There are many things that the largest public organizations--the rural, street and house committees--can do. But for the moment they are not doing everything they can. Many executive committee workers do not attach due significance to these organizations. Meetings of citizens at their places of residence are conducted haphazardly, and even so, not always for good reason. And yet, local soviets could rely in all of their work precisely on these local-action organizations, and find faithful, reliable helpers in them. This is why we need to improve both the leadership provided to public local-action organs and the assistance provided to them. It is the main problems, the urgent problems that trouble us all that must be discussed: a healthy way of life, the kind of services being provided to people, the way they spend their leisure time and so on. Mismanagement, waste and an unconscientious attitude toward work or the family all can and must serve as topics of discussion and concern on the part of both the local government organ and the public. Public discussion of acute problems will surely aid in their resolution.

One more thing. When laborers are told about the work being done by soviet organs, the most serious attention must be devoted to explaining and publicizing the laws and standards. If the broad masses are aware of the laws, not only will this help to eliminate or prevent many violations, but it will also untie the initiative of the people, and encourage them to participate more actively in the country's life. The task of soviet organs is to create all of the conditions that would permit the masses to contribute their initiative and activity to solving the problems of state and public life.

MEDIA AND PUBLISHING

UNISSUED SIBERIAN SOVIET ENCYCLOPEDIA VOLUME IN USSR LIBRARIES

[Editorial Report] Baku SOVETSKAYA TYURKOLOGIYA in Russian No 1, 1986 carries on pages 95-101 a 2600-word article by V.S. Poznanskiy titled "Materials on Turkology in the Editorial Archives of the 'Siberian Soviet Encyclopedia.'"

This piece is an overview of the unpublished materials gathered for the "Siberian Soviet Encyclopedia," the first three volumes of which were issued prior to 1933. In his introductory remarks, the author reveals that a fourth volume had also been prepared for publication but was never generally issued: "The unique pre-publication version of Volume 4 (letters O through S), 30 copies of which were distributed to members of the editorial board in 1936, was not issued, but it can be found in research libraries in Moscow, Novosibirsk, and Tomsk."

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CULTURE

LOOSENING OF CONTROLS IN ART URGED

Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 15 Aug 86 p 3

[Article by V. Manin, candidate of art studies: "Restructuring or a New Coat of Paint?: Comments On Some Issues In the Fine Arts"]

[Text] It would seem that no one disagrees: restructuring should not be merely a repetition of old things under new historical conditions. The question is how restructuring should be done and whether it will be done. In the field of fine arts all the appropriate plenums, sessions and meetings have been held and declarations made; now one can sum up their preliminary results.

In order to restructure it is necessary to expose current problems and find at least partial ways of solving them. In a report delivered at a recent plenum of the board of the RSFSR Union of Artists, the overloading of the board's apparatus with paperwork and low standards of admission to the Union of Young Artists were practically the main topics. One gets the impression that a solution to these ordinary, everyday, inconsequential problems is in fact the program for restructuring. At the same plenum, the opinion was expressed that it is not appropriate to spend a lot of time uncovering embezzlers, money-grubbers, thieves and accepters of bribes; allegedly it would be more productive to talk about acts of kindness, goodness, heroism and self-sacrifice. This appeal was all the more "timely" since the same day it was made public the CPSU Central Committee Politburo discussed ways to combat unearned income.

Yes, there is much in life which is good, no one would deny it, but problems should not be trivialized, just as defects should not be hidden with paint. Attempts to regiment art, to command it to see one thing and not another, will not be successful in the end, as experience has shown.

Efforts at regulation and fear of originality generally have a ruinous effect on art. Attempts at creating a theoretical basis for art are preposterous. Thus, in a work by V. Vanslov, corresponding member of the Academy of Arts, entitled "On Realism In the Socialist Era," a careful regimentation of art was elaborated. This book explained how far an outstanding production worker's arm should be extended, whether it was permissible to change the lighting on the subject in a picture, and to what degree one should adhere to the "eyes' truth" or instead close one's eyes when depicting the visible world. In

short, Vanslov had created a unique guidebook for innovative artists. Never mind that thereby art lost all need for development and sensitive reflection of social and artistic problems. Instead, the unambitious hack could breathe a sigh of relief: why should he suffer the torments of creativity, if an All-Union State Standard for art had been drawn up and approved? He [Vanslov] has even toyed with the idea of reorganizing the Academy of Arts into a "state committee for artistic standards"...

The quiet, smooth, uneventful existence of the fine arts in recent years has caused them to suffer serious losses. A quarter of a century ago lack of conflict was named as one of their defects. Now one can see another sickness: lack of problems. The majority of recent exhibits inspire the lulling thought that everything in life is good and pleasant, that the rye grows to maturity as it has always done, the forests grow skyward, and natural resources are inexhaustible. Fanfares resound about the completion of grandiose construction projects, and one is moved by huge oil storage tanks advancing on ancient churches. All this, of course, is real life, a slice of reality. However, it does not yield an image of life, because life is portrayed without complications and contradictions.

And what about the role of the artist as a fighter for social and artistic progress? Perhaps there is someone who feels that in our art all is well, that optimism, and not even always feigned optimism, covers the whole field of socially aware art. But this triumphant optimism does nothing to resolve the problems facing our country: social consciousness, moral duty, social reorganization and accumulation of the intellectual experience so necessary for radical change in our lives. The All-Union Art Exhibit held in the Moscow Central Exhibit Hall was not free of the window dressing and whitewashing of reality which forms a crust through which it is difficult to glimpse the truth about life. Its obvious uniformity was half the problem; worse was its obsessive imitation of age-old splendor, which served as the source for paintings and sculpture. And this after the 27th Congress had already appealed for a rejection of window dressing and stylistic uniformity in art.

It is time to free ourselves of a concept of the creative process in the fine arts which is governed by the final consumer of art. For many years the Ministry of Culture and unions of artists have offered artists only a predetermined choice of exhibit themes. We have had the "Glory To Labor" exhibit. The theme was carried through, labor was glorified. So what next? There are many "organized" themes. There are just as many organizers. But where are exhibits which illustrate what an artist is really thinking about the various problems of his time, and his solutions to those problems?

Art cannot turn a blind eye to the subjects which comprise our reality. But one must have a clear idea of the artistic specificity of depiction of reality by art. The party congress plainly increased the amount of attention given to important problems in the social and cultural life of our society. Interested art does not respond to issues with banal subject matter, but rather with noble artistic generalizations, which are reflected within the bounds of each art form's expressive capacity. Reflecting social problems, yet creatively original and unusual, were the great works of Soviet masters A. Deyneka, A. Plastov, V. Favorskiy, M. Saryan, P. Korin, V. Popkov, and M. Avetisyan. Such

works continued to be produced today by T. Salakhov, E. Moiseyenko, V. Ivanov, D. Zhilinskiy, A. and S. Tkachevy, M. Savitskiy, G. Vashchenko, G. Zakharov, D. Bista and many others.

An equal number of problems are posed by the art erected on city squares and boulevards. Above all one should note the inexpressive bayonet-shaped obelisks, similar in design to the Defenders of Moscow monument, which have been placed at the intersection of Kutuzov Prospect and Dorogomilovskaya Street. Amazing where one encounters such "bayonets." Obelisks carried to monumental proportions, blocking out the sky...

It is essential, and this is the most important thing in restructuring the art world, that we create conditions for the unhindered functioning of art, freeing craftsmen from petty tutelage by graphomaniac overseers and oversimplified perceptions of the process of creative development, and encouraging that competition of talents which is as necessary as air. On the other hand we must eliminate all attempts to weather the storm and resist the pressure of new ideas, to smother them with patient attention and subsequent inaction. We cannot permit situations in which the critics are heard but are not listened to.

In the absence of publicity, for example, a whole system of inexplicable bans and things which are not permitted has been drawn up; as a result it requires a great deal of effort to permit something, but it is quite easy to forbid. The Union of Artists "did not recommend" that an evening be given in honor of V. Ye. Tatlin, an honored artist of the RSFSR and a painter of worldwide renown, in commemoration of his 100th birthday. The reason for this refusal remained a secret, but when the reception was held anyway a few months later, there was no explosion, the moon did not shift from its orbit, the earth did not tremble, and art lovers did add a little bit to their knowledge of the artist. Obviously it is time that someone take responsibility for all cases in which permission is refused. Administrative fiat is boundless. There can be no progress if new things are not permitted. The party congress called innovation a standard for our lives.

Under these new conditions, art criticism is of invaluable significance. A great deal is being said about it at the present time, about its position within the system of public opinion. Today criticism in the fine arts field is dependent upon various departments, whose organs are magazines. This dependence does not encourage exposition of the truth. The administration of the Union of Artists or the Ministry of Culture holds an exhibit, and the very same organizations are the ones who praise it in their press organs. Whereas it should be the public which should evaluate the offerings, because the public is not involved with arranging exhibits. This is just elementary ethics. This is an essential point of correctness in carrying out the task of criticism. If one takes into account the constant temptation for departments or other artists to deal with criticism with a crushing response, then one can well understand criticism's greatest faults: obedience, excessive caution and timidity. Today there is an urgent need to develop a mechanism for publicity which would not harm criticism, and to encourage confidence in public opinion.

Publicity is extremely important. It has peculiar traits in the fine arts field. The public is not aware of how purchases of works of art are made by ministries of culture and unions of artists, of what motivates the encouragement of a certain artist, why closed contests are held, why some names are publicized for no discernable reason while others are ignored; there is no broad and comprehensive discussion of who should be nominated for the State Prize and other prizes. All these points were brought up at a plenum of the board of the USSR Union of Artists, but no answer was forthcoming. Many aspects of the art world require analysis and explanation, yet it is major issues which most need to be discussed. Otherwise publicity will be compromised by the same indifferent attention or concerned inaction mentioned above. We must jointly ponder a mechanism for public supervision which would make it mandatory that the appropriate lessons be drawn from publicity.

The need to reevaluate current practices for buying artworks, selecting works to be exhibited and publishing critical and scientific works is obvious. Solution of problems behind closed doors should be excluded from all aspects of this reevaluation. There is an urgent need to get professionals and experts involved in the discussion of problems, as they have, strange as it may seem, been forced out of many administrators' creative councils.

The restructuring of the multi-layered world of the fine arts will require answers to these questions.

It seems to me that in recent years there has been an unpleasant increase in attempts by artists to get into institutions which will ensure them of senior status. Most likely it is time to stop and think about things like conscience and public duty, the heavy cross of which is borne by art.

Solutions to these problems are impossible without an inflow of energetic, talented people to work in this people's cause, the cause of restructuring. There is once again a need to approach culture as a social system in which each creative organization and administrative establishment is given a proper place and specific guidelines for its activities, in which the role of the Soviet public will be reinforced and protected from bureaucratic influence. We cannot allow restructuring to be nothing more than just a new coat of paint.

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CULTURE

AYTMATOV DEFENDS NEW CONTROVERSIAL NOVEL

Moscow LITERATURNAYA GAZETA in Russian 13 Aug 86 p 4

/Interview with Chingiz Aytmatov by correspondent Irina Rishina: "The Price is Life"; date and place not given/

/Text/ Our correspondent's meeting with Chingiz Aitmatov took place shortly after the 8th Congress of our country's writers and, naturally, their conversation began specifically with this question -- about the congress and the problems which were raised at it.

[Aytmatov] I must say and, I think that I am expressing a general conviction, that this congress differed markedly from earlier ones. There are, naturally, specific reasons, a specific logic behind this. The time which our society is now living through is a time of great efforts to decisively rebuild all spheres of existence and, particularly, the state of mind, the psychology of the people, without which a true renewal cannot take place as all remaining factors rest upon a starting and a final factor -- the human factor. Our great writers' meeting also took place in the spirit of the times. In serious, sharp, frank and impassioned speeches, a group of important problems, of basic and conceptual questions relating to life and literature, were outlined -- problems such as putting socialist justice in good order, ecological worries, and concerns about the development of national cultures under modern conditions. It stands to reason that creative organization and professional questions which disturb literary workers today were also brought up.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] You did not address the congress, but if you had taken the podium, what would you have talked about?

[Aytmatov] Unfortunately, for reasons real to me, I was unable to prepare myself this time. But, if I had spoken from the tribune, then I would have talked first of all about national problems, about the interrelationships of culture, literature and languages. These questions are of vital importance for us insofar as our country is a multinational federation and because what happens in each of the republics is also unfailingly of general significance. It may be

that we do not always think about this. But this is precisely how it is. And to a large degree, a person's civil, moral and spiritual potential -- what he brings within himself to his society and the world: harmonious or difficult personal relationships, height of national spirit, desire to respect national values and to one degree or another be respected as a representative of a specific nationality, or arrogance and indifference toward people who speak other languages -- depend upon how national literatures develop in local areas, on how modern and timely the problems are, which they are solving on their own national soil and, at the same time, within the general context of a socialist way of life which is the same for all of us. These questions are not academic, but are among the most vital, commonplace, and therefore urgent questions that there are. And in this matter we must also have openness -- as a sign of the new within the new way of thinking.

To cultivate openness -- this is the rule of the day.

I have already spoken at our party congress within the republic and now want to repeat myself: it is necessary to renounce old measures and comparisons, to throw off their shackles once and for all. When turning our attention to the state of national cultures, we still recall that they were once semi-illiterate or without written languages and we refer endlessly to these facts in our thinking about present-day reality. It is as if we still lived in the period of the literacy campaign, of the red and black boards. But these days are already long gone and cannot serve as a reference point today. We cannot, let us suppose, compare our industry, the entire economy, with 1913. This is stupid, it doesn't fit any framework -- another time has arrived, a time of scientific and technical revolution. And in approaching the development of national literatures, of national cultures, there must be another measure: we can no longer exult that everyone knows how to read and write, that there are newspapers, radio, television, theaters, etc. All this is so, and it is good that it is so. But we cannot hide behind this from new vital problems which confront a real, existing people and its culture. If I had spoken at the congress, I would have told my literary colleagues, particularly the publicists and critics: It is not necessary to portray things as if everything has been solved and there are no problems in the national sphere. We should not present as examples these elementary things and should no longer think about this, but rather about how deeply and democratically a national culture and a national self-identification are developing within the system of our international structure. Internationalism is not arithmetic, not the sum of its components, but an algebra of many national cultures with their own independence. And at the same time, this individuality is inconceivable without a definite general common denominator for our entire intellectual culture, without active utilizing the achievements of the more highly developed cultures. Indeed, we must talk about this and must try to cope with these things.

Take for example the development of a national literary language. What happens in it, what processes? Let's consider borrowed elements -- to what degree are they natural, organic, timely, don't they sometimes stem from conservative thinking, from mental laziness, sometimes mechanically, and isn't something sometimes transferred from one language to another for the sake of flattery.

I want to make one stipulation right off: it is generally known that the Russian language is a great language and it is like breaking through an open door to talk today about its role for all the country's national cultures. The Russian language is great, but this does not mean that there is no need to pay attention to the internal laws of another national language and that it is alright to introduce things into it, particularly from the Russian language, that should not be introduced. Curious in this sense are the names of two oblast newspapers which come out in the Kirgiz language -- one of them is called YSYK-KOL PRAVDASY and the other NARYN PRAVDASY. I find this deeply insulting. What kind of people is it who put a thousand years of history behind it but whose language lacks words for truth and justice? Who needs such mangling of the Russian language and such degradation of Kirgiz, which has about a dozen synonyms for the a concept of "truth" alone?! The development of a national literature, no matter how many talented writers are working in it, is tied to a whole series of other factors, with the total culture of a people, and with its formation. In Frunze, Kirgiz schools are not being augmented, but hundreds of them are being built. The time is long overdue to open kindergartens using the Kirgiz language within the capital of the republic. Nobody is hindering this, but also nobody is occupied with it, and indeed all this acquires vitally important significance for the people under modern conditions. What kind of national culture is it that does not have its own basis?

But when such painful thoughts are expressed, people can at once be found who begin to look on this as a manifestation of nationalism and narrowness of views. Unfortunately, this super-vigilance itch, stemming in no small part from careerism, is not being condemned as it should be. It is necessary to note in this connection that, as a result of such a tendency, a special type of demogogy has sprung up in local areas -- soapbox orators who have turned praise of the Russian language, whether appropriate or not, and denigration of their own languages into an almost prestigious profession for themselves.

Denigration of one's own national language and national selfhood is one extreme, but there is also another, opposite one, which is also cause for indignation. I am talking about the tendency to see one's own people only on the Board of Honor, to see only their merits, their plusses, and not to notice the minuses in their lives. This understandable and explicable, but antidialectical desire is to a certain degree a brake on the progress of renewal.

When we theoretically assume that, with time, in some far-off future, all languages will run together and that there will be only one or two languages in the world, people taken with this prospect scarcely take into account that the world will be poorer as a result of this. These "victorious" languages will not have a surrounding environment to nourish them. Uniformity cannot support development. Therefore, it is important to preserve a multiplicity of languages as long as possible. In our time of an informational explosion, when conditions have arisen which level everything and everybody, nobody considers linguistic individuality to be a useful thing. I nevertheless support the existence of a

multitude of languages and the availability to them of basic possibilities for surviving and developing.

The immortality of a people lies in its language. Every language is great for its own people. Each of us has a filial duty to the people which has given us birth and has presented us with our greatest wealth -- our own language: a duty to preserve its purity and to multiply its riches.

But here we run up against a new dialectic of history. Modern human society finds itself in a constant and ever increasing process of contraction, which is increasingly becoming a general necessity of life and culture. In these conditions, every person should possess several languages. The phenomenon of bilingualism is now appearing in the literatures of certain republics. By the way, I am among the bilingual writers. As is known, V. Bykov, I. Drutse, M. and R. Ibragimbekov, T. Pulatov, and others write in their native language and in Russian. I know many people who have a good command of several languages -- both of the peoples of our country and foreign languages. An enormous world of literature and culture is opened up before them. I am convinced that this is the path of the future -- this wonderful world must be opened to everyone. Not long ago I had a meeting with a group of young Algerian trilinguists -- they had a good command of the Russian language, of course spoke their native Arabic language, and also spoke excellent French... And one young woman teacher knew the Berber language as well. I see in them a model for the future.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] I would like to turn our conversation to your own creative work, to your new novel "Plakha" /The Execution Block/, publication of which began in the June issue of NOVYY MIR and which was continued in the August issue.

As Albert Schweitzer noted, simply thinking about the meaning of life is, in itself, of value. The heroes of your works, if one speaks about their moral and philosophical make-up, their inspiration, attempt to grasp the complex truth of life, its meaning, each on his own level, of course, be it a level of wise contemplation by the old peasant woman Tolgonay in "Materinskoye pole" /Maternal Field/ or of Tanabay in "Proshchay Gulsary" /Farewell Gulsary/, who is called a "Muzhik philosopher". What you once wrote about Yedigey, about his understanding of the world and of himself, it seems to me, is projected to a certain degree into your new novel and this indicates that, even then, your concept of him...to blossom: "My hero Buranniy Yedigay thinks a lot and intensively about the meaning of human existence...There are people for whom this question is tied to a belief in God, but indeed also for many of them, God is nothing other than a form of morality, of conscience, and of self-consciousness. In any case, one of the forms. And so, my hero -- a Soviet working person and not a sectarian -- ponders this question, and the answer turns out to be not so simple as in the speeches of a visiting lecturer".

[Aytmatov] You're right. These tones had already sounded in my earlier novel "I dolshe veka dlitsya den" /And the Day Lasts Longer than a Century/. They were heard in the reflections of Yedigey at the hour when he buried his friend Kazangap. Following a difficult and tortuous search for a burial spot, before holding the funeral service, Yedigey turns to God: "I want to believe that You exist and that You are in my thoughts. And when I turn to You with prayers, then in fact I turn through You to myself...".

As you see, although Yedigey turns to a supreme being, he is, in truth, turning to himself, because nobody other than he himself and those like him can resolve their own doubts and anxieties. If Yedigey, so to say, is an occasional, commonplace thinker, without any philosophical equipment, then the hero of my new novel "Plakha", Avdiy Kallistratov, is predisposed to theological activity. However, they are somehow related to one another -- evidently by their attitude toward life, by their thirst for justice, and by their sense of goodness. Completely different, Yedigey and Avdiy connect with one another here.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] In the first and second parts of the novel there are several themes: of Avdiy Kallistratov, of the Moyunkom "junta", of the hashish dealers, of the seven wolves. But it is nonetheless clear that the main one for you is Avdiy Kallistratov. I think that this is a surprise even for those of your readers who are used to having each of Aitmatov's new works never repeating earlier ones and being distinguished by its thematic and artistic novelty. In "Plakha", for the first time, the main character in your work is a Russian man.

[Aytmatov] Yes, Avdiy is a Russian, but I take a broader view of him -- as a Christian, although what takes place within him, I suppose, also relates to those of my contemporaries who, by origin, are affiliated with other faiths. In this case, I tried to make a path across religion -- to man. Not to God, but to man! Of all the novel's themes, the main one for me, without question, is that of Avdiy and his searches.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] But, nevertheless, it was not accidental that you chose for the role of your main hero a Christian and not a Muslim, let's say.

[Aytmatov] Of course it was not accidental. The Christian religion affords a very strong message in the figure of Jesus Christ. The Islam religion, to which I belong by my origin, has no similar figure. Mohammed is not a martyr. He had difficult, tortuous days; but that they crucified him for an idea and that he forgave men forever -- there is nothing of this. Jesus Christ gives me a reason to express something concealed from modern man. Therefore I, an atheist, encountered him on my creative path. This explains my choice of a principal hero, the fact that Avdiy Kallistratov is precisely what he is.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] Reading "Plakha" one willy-nilly thinks of Dostoyevskiy -- of Prince Myshkin, of Alyesha Karamazov... and your Pontius Pilate and Jesus of Nazareth force one to recall Bulgakov.

[Aytmatov] What can I say on this score? It pleases me to hear this, but not at all because I want, in some sort of familiar way, to find myself next to my great predecessors. In this particular case, my work evolved in such a way that I came into contact with the same problems as once occupied their minds. These are eternal themes, eternal problems that will be treated not only by me, but by many who come later as well. Of Course, I thought about Bulgakov, in this perspective, as Pontius Pilate and Jesus, but for me Pilate and Jesus of Nazareth are these same persons and find themselves in one and the same situation. However, I hope, the attentive reader will recognize that I did not try to resolve this situation in a basically different way, but rather tried to introduce a very important aspect into the dialog between Pilate and Christ -- from the time that this meeting found expression in Bulgakov, a definite piece of history has gone by and we are living in a quite different time-frame. I wished to introduce something new, that which we know today, and, in particular, to speak about the global ties of the human world as such. By no means do I insist that we understand the Day of Judgment specifically as the nuclear end of the world. But it is precisely my recognition of the reality of this threat that drove me to try to show that it is not an imaginary, mystical end of the world we must fear, but rather that which we may bring about ourselves, something that may become a terrible reality.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] An assessment of your novel, its criticism, in the pages of "LG" as well, lies in the future -- after its publication is complete. But what can you say today to those readers of "Plakha" who feel that the author takes an almost conciliatory attitude toward religion?

[Aytmatov] I assume that the novel will provoke various opinions, various interpretations. Following completion of publication, I anticipate serious literary criticism, if you wish, philosophical discussion. But to judge writers or works by whether they are or are not sympathetic to religion, while considering only familiar formulas and while not considering how and for the sake of what purely non-religious purposes and ideas they are being used -- means to look at a book and to see nothing.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] Judging from your works, music, songs, mean very much to you. Indeed, you wanted to call one of your first stories "Melody, having in mind the music of love -- true? That story which A. Tvardovskiy published in NOVYY MIR under the title "Dzhamilya". In turn, you called the book "Melody" in the Kirgiz language -- "Ovon"--isn't that so?

In "Plakha", there is one episode which is very important to the philosophical structure of the novel -- when Avdiy Kallistratov hears old-Bulgarian church psalms being sung at the Pushkin Museum. On the waves of this singing, he recalled the essence of a Georgian story, or more correctly a ballad, which he had once read, "The Six and the Seventh".

In your works, the legend, the parable, the fairy tale and the song play a basic

role. You thought up this ballad? Indeed, there is no such one in fact, is there? Or is it a paraphrase of an old Georgian tale? What sort of a meaning does it hold? I read the outcome of the ballad, the destruction of the seventh, as showing the inconsistency of the ethic of the individual person and of society. The seventh, with no hesitation, kills the six, for if an enemy does not give up, he is killed in the name of the common good, in the name of an idea. But as a person he cannot bear this crime of his, for him killing is immoral. And of course this is a very basic point, that Avdiy ponders the reasons prompting the seventh to take his own life, and moreover that he thinks about this precisely during the church singing, and one of the basic Christian commandments, as is known, is "Thou shalt not kill".

[Aytmatov] It can be deciphered in this way. Here there is a chain reaction: the six showed fierce resistance, they killed, the seventh punishes them for this, he seeks retribution, but he punishes them by the same cruel method and, having destroyed them, he realizes that he has also destroyed himself as a person -- and the result is a vicious circle, a tragedy. There is, of course, no such ballad and I am waiting with some anxiety to see how my Georgian readers and brother writers will react to it, how well I have succeeded in presenting a genuine article, although there is nothing real in it. With this small story, I would like to say that civil wars are always connected with national tragedy, that what takes place takes place through suffering and blood, through a national tragedy, and this can be expressed in music, the singing of psalms, which not only glorify battle, heroic deeds, which memorialize the joy of victory, but also, to the contrary, force us to grieve, to sorrow for the victims.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] The novel is called "Plakha". However I have heard about another, apparently original name -- "Krugovrashcheniye" /Rotation/ and in the text I came across "sound-alikes" to it: "...I am about to...plunge into an entirely different life, one that wanders for endless time in turbulent, ROTATING whirlpools...". "...through all the ROTATIONS of time, there stretched a thread also to his fate". Why did you change the name? Indeed, the name is always very important for you.

[Aytmatov] In fact, I intended -- and this intention remains -- to write a large, synthetical novel entitled "Krugovrashcheniye", in which I thought to incorporate both the story of Avdiy Kallistratov, and the story of the seven wolves, and much more. To realize this thought -- to unite various subject lines and various times in a single whole -- turned out to be very complicated. And having realized how long I would have to work on this thing, I decided to write the history of Avdiy separately. I did not intend for it to take the form of a novel, I thought it would be a short story, but it developed by itself.

And the name "Plakha", it seems to me, follows from the content of the novel. An execution block is not only a platform where they carry out a death penalty, a place of execution. A man in the course of his life, in one way or another, finds himself before this platform. Sometimes he ascends to this execution block, naturally remaining alive physically. Sometimes he does not ascend. In this particular case, the name speaks about what kind of value the execution block, accession to it, has, and whether there is meaning in this, in this way to suffering on the cross.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] The novel begins on a tragic note, with penetrating pages about a terrible, bloody slaughter on a unique saiga antelope savannah, with the story of a family of wolves. For your readers, reference to the world of nature and to animal images is not new -- the ambler Gulsary, the camel Karanar, and now the wolves Akbara and Tashchaynar, written with striking psychological and emotional power...

[Aytmatov] Kirgiz folklore is very full of the animal world because this is the folklore of cattle-raisers. And beside the hero -- it is necessary to have his horse. Large psychological "tidbits" are connected with horses within the great "menagerie" for example when describing competitions with horses -- what takes place in the human soul at the instant when passions flare, what kinds of senseless collisions occur between people. We have a surprising and very ancient epic story, "Kodzhodzhash", which dates to the times when man and nature, the animal world, still were not dismembered, were not separate. I used one of its themes in "Proshchay Gulsary". The epic tells about how a young, daring hunter, Kodzhodzhash, the provider of food for his tribe, destroys all the wild goats in the mountains. And one day, a gray, lame she-goat made an appeal to him. She asked him not to kill her and an old gray male goat because, besides them, there was no one to continue the species. The gray she-goat incautiously offended his ego by saying that, if he did not leave them in peace, he would bring down a terrible punishment on himself. The hunter laughed at her words -- What could happen to him? -- and he killed the old male goat. The gray she-goat, even though she was lame, ran away from him and, when he caught up to her, he found himself on a cliff which was so inaccessible that he could go neither up nor down. "This is your punishment", said the she-goat, walking away.

Thus, an ecological end of the line was recognized in the thought of the ancients. Of course, the widest possible interpretations can be given to this epic. My version is thus: Even in ancient times, man cautioned himself against taking an unwise attitude toward nature, and in particular against the extermination of animals, even for the sake of his own vital needs. Even then, they recognized these aspects of ecological problems, our own present-day concerns.

So, my own very passionate regard for the animal world still goes back to this, to Kirgiz national folklore.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] In your previous things, Tanabay and his horse Gulsary, Yedigey and his camel Karanar -- these show, if it can be put this way, a kinship of soul, a closeness of fates, their inseparability. But in "Plakha" the wolves tower over man, over his base habits. During the saiga antelope hunt on the Moyunkum savannah, "...In this apocalyptic silence, the face of a man appeared to the she-wolf Akbara. It appeared so close and so terribly, with such clarity, that she was terrified.

[Aytmatov] An animal is seen by an animal.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] And besides, to Akbara, a predator, this man-beast seems terrifying. The family of wolves in the novel finds itself, as it were, between two human worlds. On one side, there is the planet of men personified by Avdiy, by a humanistic regard for all living things, by a love of man, by a desire to understand the reasons for peoples' failures and to help them by means of moral admonition but also by personal participation, and by a craving for love -- "I never supposed that to think about a woman I love and to write her letters would become the meaning of my life...I will not stop loving until my very death...". On the other side, there is a planet of unsociables --the "junta", as the band that carried out the evil deeds at Moyunkum called itself, the alcoholics, the homeless, the drifters who live by animal laws, in the worst sense of the word, and the young hashhish runners. In truth, there is nothing human about the "junta", while the wolves have a family, bonds of attachment, and parental feelings. This contrast is evident to me from the very beginning. It is underscored by the scene at the Pushkin Museum when, before the journey to the steppe with the hashhish suppliers, Avdiy hears the singers from Sofia: "What a contrast -- the devine hymns and the dark terror of the equipment standing near the station, in the evil smoke and the evil weeds". I don't know whether this structural design of the first and second parts of the novel was consciously created, but, in any case, I saw the contrast rather clearly.

[Aytmatov] It continues to the very end of the novel. In the third part as well, the family of wolves, their tragic story, also finds itself between two worlds, tied to the stories of two families, of two opposing people -- the shepherd Boston Ukunchiyev and his enemy Bazarbay Noygutov. They are antipodes, like Avidy Kallistratov and Grishan, the head of the hashhish suppliers, who converts young people to his own belief that "everything in the world can be sold, and everything can be bought" and that "money is everything".

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] Why have you been "infected" with the problems of young people?

[Aytmatov] In my opinion, they have now become much more intense. I remember when I was a student. We had just lived through the war, had just begun to recover, there were many difficult, complicated moments, but in our young souls, sometimes naive, sometimes infantile, there burned the spirit of collectivism, of international solidarity. Perhaps the war -- a common trouble -- facilitated this.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] This is demonstated very clearly in your "Ranniye zhuravli" /The Early Cranes7.

[Aytmatov] And I would not want to be young now.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] In terms of age...

[Aytmatov] Of course, in age. Although it is not up to me, I would not want to be a youth. I somehow am uncomfortable among present-day young people.

We are ourselves, probably, guilty of what is happening with the callow young

part of society. Under conditions of well-being -- and, whatever you say, we are living well, there are no Hungry, no impoverished, no homeless -- the costs of moral education, the absence of a high level of internal culture, lead to a dependence on consumption, to a worship of things, when the material factor is put in a position of paramount importance, when spiritual potential is approaching the zero point.

To a large extent, I consider the family guilty here and, even more, the school. In my view, the school is not meeting the growing demands of the times and the contradictions which we are experiencing. I recently talked with a man who was taken with the idea of reform, not the one that we are trying to carry out now, but another profound, basic one, capable of transforming the school, really, into a center of harmonious, all-round development, education and upbringing. When the introduction of children to labor, in accordance with their abilities, begins literally at age 2 or 3, then introduction to literature, music, and art comes also. It is proposed that groups be kept small, so that individual attention can be given to the children.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] Who will pay the costs of this?

[Aytmatov] We cannot economize on public education; this is simply not good. Overcrowded classes, even when excellent teachers are available, have a negative impact on the quality of students' knowledge, as well as morals. When we use one teacher to instruct 50 children, this is not education, but rather a profanation of it.

At the Kirgiz Communist Party Congress, I expressed these words of warning, using top-ranked School No. 5 in the city of Frunze as an example. I spoke about the fact that it will not be possible, even in years and decades, for either the Kirgiz SSR Gosplan, or the Ministry of Education, or the Frunze City Executive Committee, or the corresponding departments of the Central Committee to solve the problems of this and other schools, in which the number of pupils is steadily growing while school desks and the budget remain the same. Society must exercise serious restraint with regard to certain things, but it must meet the costs of education. Then we will be able to talk realistically about scientific and technical progress, then talents and minds with high moral and intellectual potential will be available aplenty.

And the Komsomol, in my view, must give thought to itself. In my opinion, it has become a serious victim of routine: its militant, unifying, mobilizing, magical spirit is not being felt. I suggest that it is also necessary to reorganize it, so that it will more effectively exert an influence on the young and will play the same role in their lives as in the days of my youth, and my generation was sincere in calling its youth a komsomol youth. These were not empty words.

Stupifying mass consumption of art is also having an ill effect.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] Valentin Rasputin said in this connection that if Pushkin had not heard the stories and songs of Arina Rodionovna, but instead songs of a popular stage singer, he would not have become Pushkin, but Dante. This, of course, is hyperbole, a polemically aimed exaggeration by a writer concerned about the intellectual life of his young contemporaries. And the matter lies not only or, more correctly, not so much in the songs of one singer, as in oceans of cheap, featureless musical nonsense which can amuse, divert and entice, but which is incapable of promoting intellectual activity, of awakening "good feelings" and of filling the leisure hours of young people.

[Aytmatov] And the presentation, for sake of amusement, of brutal Western films with their chases, assaults, and killings! Grown-up people may be able to view them critically, but they catch up, absorb and impress children and adolescents, the inexperienced and indiscriminating.

We alone can raise our young people, will form their young intellects. And we cannot sit back, hoping that nothing terrible will happen, believing that, now, they are cruel, heartless, arrogant, but that they will grow out of it -- they will reform, that we will reform them. We will not reform them. To reform is difficult. And to suppose that, if we provide mass secondary education, this will solve all our problems is, at best, a naive assumption. On the contrary, the higher the level of literacy, the greater the difficulties and complexities there are in education; it is necessary to be more subtle in our methods, in our approaches, more refined and more flexible.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] What did you have, what realities and facts, when you included the hashhish theme in your novel?

[Aytmatov] It also, of course, was not by accident that I addressed this theme. A bitter letter from the mother of two addict sons, printed not long ago in LITERATURNAYA GAZETA, served as still further confirmation that this painful problem exists. For long years, we have concealed our own misfortune from ourselves and, naturally, I have been bothered by the questions of why this sickness affects a part of our youth and what reasons, family and personal, exist that permit the possibility of such a shameful phenomenon in our society. From where and how did it gradually creep up on us? What kind of social disorder drives young people to take this ruinous path?

It is not they, but we who must think about and answer this to ourselves.

I once went to meet a train at a very distant station on the steppe. The train was delayed by several hours. I was wandering around, not knowing what to do with myself, when a militiaman, apparently having recognized me, invited me to sit with them in their office. When I entered their working spaces I saw that, in an iron cage in one corner, there were some young men who had been arrested aboard freight trains for transporting the narcotic hashish. In another corner was the physical evidence: rucksacks, bags and suitcases containing the same hashish. I felt bad. I was unable to help them because the matter had already taken a juridical turn. The letter from the unfortunate mother in

LITERATURNAYA GAZETA forced me to recall what I had thought then, that I absolutely must write, although in publicistic form, that: yes, they broke the law and deserve to be punished, but it is also necessary to help them. We are obligated to do this. It is necessary to cure them, to seek means for their recovery.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] Why didn't the continuation of "Plakha" appear in the seventh issue of NOVY MIR, rather than the eighth? When will the third part of the novel come out?

[Aytmatov] Many people ask me these questions. I wasn't able to read through the proofs in time. Therefore, the second part of the novel was switched to the eighth issue and publication is supposed to be completed in the ninth.

[LITERATURNAYA GAZETA] Chingiz Torekylovich, may we learn what you are reading right now?

[Aytmatov] I have been busy with "Plakha" and still have not been able to read several books which I very much would like to read. I have started to familiarize myself with the new book by A. Adamovich, "Nichego vazhnyeye" /Nothing More Important/. And although it is subtitled "Contemporary Problems of Military Prose", even from the pages that I have managed to read I can see that its range is much broader -- pressing problems not of military prose alone, but of all our artistic thought, and not of literature alone, but also of life. I don't doubt that the person who is called Ales Adamovich will again force me to think, to suffer, will carry me along through suffering and feeling to something that is good, real -- of this, I have no doubt: he is already, and only in this way perceived by me. In his new book, he carries on a conversation about ethics and morals, about the fact that, today, there is no other route than humanism.

We continue to be opposed to nonsocial understanding of humanism, but, on the other hand, in the nuclear age, when a real threat of extinction hangs over mankind, over civilization, we have a broader conception of humanism than previously. We are trying to find a universal approach to problems which are common to all mankind. Now, when the world has reached such a level of technical development, and such a level of contradictions, when, in a moral regard, man is not keeping up with those accomplishments which he is creating with the help of his own mind and hands, it is extremely important that literature and art use their own means to exert a maximum influence on people, to say to them that there are no such convictions, goals and problems which are worth the price of the life of mankind. It is necessary to assert for all time a universal commandment for everyone -- only peace and nothing else.

13032

CSO: 1800/565

CULTURE

KLIMOV DISCUSSES CHANGES IN MOVIE INDUSTRY

Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 9 Aug 86 p 3

[Interview with E. G. Klimov, movie director and first secretary of the Board of the USSR Union of Cinematographers, conducted by G. Kapralov: "The Cinema, Too, Cannot Wait: The Artist and His Times"]

[Text] One letter in three received these days by the PRAVDA Literature and Art Department is on the cinema. On the eve of the 5th Congress of the USSR Union of Cinematographers readers most often lamented that movie screens are filled with pictures which lack artistic truth, profound thought and civic enthusiasm... Since the congress was held in mid-May and the need for fundamental changes both in movie production and in the work of the creative union itself were announced loudly, sharply and frankly, readers have been asking about the progress of this restructuring and asking what the new union board and secretaries are doing to change the present situation and eliminate the crisis symptoms which have arisen.

"Literally since the very first days after the congress," said Elem Germanovich [Klimov], "our work has taken on a very energetic, accelerated pace, the need for which is due to the urgent nature of the tasks we face. First and foremost the secretariat has continued the discussions which were begun prior to the congress and the analysis of the basic problems of cinematography which was made at the congress itself."

"There exist various opinions as to how we should restructure our work, and as to what path we should take from here. Our union is currently drawing up its proposal on this question. We are attempting to create what one could call a 'sketch' of the model for a new motion picture production organization. We are talking about a mechanism, a system, which would encourage a rise in the ideological and artistic level of cinematography as a whole, which would keep hacks, timeservers, and commoners from getting their works on the screen, while opening the doors wide for talented people and artists who are able to hear and heed the voice of the times and create films which meet the criteria of true art."

"Incidentally, a word about criteria. They were the first thing we tackled, because they had become blurred, and as a result it had become easy to pass off mediocrity as talent, and in some cases to categorize talent as an 'error'."

"To fight for the heights of criteria is the primary duty of criticism. And literally at the first secretariat meetings subsequent to the congress we discussed the work of the editorial boards of the magazines SOVETSKIY EKRAN [Soviet Screen] and ISKUSSTVO KINO [The Art of Cinema]. As the saying goes, we listened to all sides and came to the conclusion that both our largest publication cinema magazine and our theoretical journal must make fundamental changes because they have fallen behind the living moviemaking process, do not reflect its true status and have come to represent narrow departmental interests. We posed the question of whether these magazines, currently under the jurisdiction of two departments -- USSR Goskino [State Committee for Cinematography] and the Union of Cinematographers -- should be placed under the guidance of the Union of Cinematographers alone."

"Two new commissions have been set up. At this time we are tentatively calling them the conflict commission and the legal commission. The former was created to review motion pictures which during the past few years, for one reason or another, were not released. We cannot go forward into the future while there is disorder, unresolved questions and unfairness behind us. The commission includes representatives of Goskino in addition to critics, directors, scriptwriters and actors, because the problems which have arisen must be resolved jointly. The commission has already examined a number of dramatic general release and made-for-television movies, as well as documentary and popular science films. For example, the movie "Vasil Bykov: Voskhozhdeniye [Ascent]" by Belorussian director and documentary filmmaker Viktor Dashuk will be shown nationwide. Up to this time this movie has for some reason only been shown in the [Belorussian] republic. In the near future, viewers will become acquainted with some previously unknown works by such directors as Kira Muratova, Andrey Smirnov, Bulat Mansurov, Larisa Shepitko..."

"The new commissions have had to deal not only with motion pictures, but also with the creative fate of individual directors, especially young directors, who for various reasons have been dismissed from the moviemaking scene. Now they have the opportunity to continue their creative activities which were interrupted without cause. We accepted some of them into our union right there at the secretariat meeting. It is true, clarifying what I said before, that there have already been cases in which the commission did not insist that some movies be released, because they were truly unsuccessful productions. Here, as in anything, one must strictly adhere to the principle of fairness and be extremely objective in each specific case."

"As is well known, at the current time new statutes are being drawn up which will expand the rights of public organizations and creative unions, even to the point of giving them the right to countermand departmental decisions. Thus far we have already discovered that a legal mess prevails in the moviemaking field. Consider the question of copyrights. Currently, copyrights can be obtained by members of only two professions: script writers

and composers. Yet the director, who should rightfully be considered the film's author, has no such right, or at least this right is nowhere clearly set forth. The cameraman and the artist, the authors of a film's imagery, also have no such right. These are all complex issues, but unless they are resolved we cannot continue to work in accordance with the requirements of the times."

"Out of respect for the rights of a movie's authors we need to eliminate bureaucratic interference, either in such cases where truth in art is sacrificed to officials' personal ambitions, or when the various departments whose interests will be affected by the film are allowed to decide what its fate will be..."

"The secretariat has discussed Goskino's thematic plan for 1987. It turns out that it was drawn up on the basis of old patterns and outdated images, the essence of which is a 'thematic barrier'."

"How sad it is to discover that the positions and actions of Goskino administration on many issues are far from being in accord with the decisions and proposals made at the 5th Cinematography Congress, although in speeches at the congress Goskino officials assured us that they had a most serious attitude toward restructuring of the entire motion picture industry. It is true that some, so to speak, fragmentary changes are planned and are being carried out, but if one takes a closer look at these changes one finds that they make no fundamental changes; they leave untouched and immovable the very mechanism which has caused the crisis situation in our movie industry.

"Why is this happening? Obviously there are many reasons, but a significant role is played by the fact that it is easier and more convenient to administrate and direct using these old, outdated methods (that is the problem: it is easier and more convenient, but not more efficient in the truest sense of the word). With the old methods it is more difficult to find out who is responsible for wretched 'productions'."

"Secondly, judging by the actions of Goskino administrators, they either do not comprehend or are not inclined to heed the statute dealing with the rights of the creative union in the resolution of fundamental issues in the development of cinematography."

"Once again I would like to emphasize that we feel that it is essential that we work together with Goskino, and therefore our representatives have joined the script-editing board, the creative workers' rate commission, and others. But we do not wish to work as part of a chain of general irresponsibility. Responsibility should exist at all levels and in all branches, and this is what the newly-developed moviemaking system aims for. Of course, this system cannot be universal, and should be implemented in accordance with local characteristics, the specific nature of studios, etc. Instant restructuring is hardly possible. But it, this restructuring, should go forward and gather speed. There is no turning back."

"Cinematography is a synthetic art, and all the muses are sisters of the tenth muse, as the cinema has sometimes been called. Therefore we need active

contacts with other creative unions. And we need to acknowledge that recently our union has worked, if not in total isolation, then at least like a recluse. We have now also violated this "tradition." After the writers' congress we invited its delegates to attend a meeting of our secretariat. We were visited by Vasil Bykov, Valentin Rasputin, Viktor Astafyev, Ales Adamovich, Vyacheslav Kondratyev, Grigoriy Baklanov, Daniil Granin, Viktor Konetskiy, Viktor Kozko and others. We told them about our plans and showed them films made by young directors. The meeting was both interesting and profitable. Now we are planning to hold a joint conference on how writers can participate in moviemaking. It is no secret that many writers are wary of the cinema, because en route to the screen their works sometimes get 'chopped up' so badly that the authors are ashamed for their names to appear in the credits."

"Our work is being done in an atmosphere of broad publicity, the kind which should exist in the Union of Cinematographers, as well as in other creative unions. We are attempting to promptly inform our colleagues in republics, krays, oblasts, cities and movie studios what has been done, what is being done, and what we are planning to do. In order to do this, members of the board and the secretariat have gone out and spoken and listened to comments and suggestions. One can feel the tremendous interest and growing activism of cinematographers, whether the topic is the operations of a movie studio, for instance one like the Studio imeni M. Gorkiy, which, it seems to us, has lost its best traditions as a maker of movies for children and young people, or about the situation at the All-Union State Institute for Cinematography imeni S. A. Gerasimov, or at the Higher Courses for Script Writers and Directors, or at the Debyut Young People's Creative Association, which is connected with Mosfilm, or about the opening in the near future of a movie center in Moscow, or about plans to establish a movie academy, which was a dream of Sergey Eisenstein..."

"Our colleagues in the fraternal socialist countries are also paying careful attention to our work. And, in turn, their experience is important to us. By becoming acquainted with them we have obtained valuable information and been enriched with positive experience. I say 'positive' because there is also negative experience, the sort from which one learns lessons and then avoids repeating it. But that sort of knowledge has a place in our collective treasury as well."

"In order to increase the prestige and creative level of work in all branches of the filmmaking process, the Union of Cinematographers will each year award prizes for the best screenplay and director, best actor and best supporting actor, prizes for artists, sound crews, sound director, best makeup, best lighting, etc."

"As you can see, it is difficult to list all the questions on which decisions have been made after thorough discussion, decisions which we are currently working to carry out. I would just say a word about the problem of our relations with television. Until recently those relations were somewhat strange and hostile. We would like for television programs to aid more actively in the development of the cinema. We would like to change 'Kinopanorama' so that it will be more serious without ceasing to be

interesting, so that the leading critics will appear on it. It seems to me that we need to establish a television/movie club which would help viewers gain a better understanding of cinematic art and inculcate good taste in them."

"Filmmakers themselves must change; they must undergo psychological restructuring. It is time to be bold! And to take a more responsible and demanding attitude toward one's own creative work. Only under those conditions will it be possible to carry on educational work aimed at changing viewers' tastes. Because it is our fault that today one can see a decline in interest in serious movies on the part of some viewers. There is a preference for what are often mindlessly entertaining films, low-quality melodramas."

"One of readers' questions concerns my own creative work. Of course that is something which I think about, but at the present time I have so many things to do in the union that I'll have to postpone my creative plans for about a year or a year-and-a-half. Then, I hope, my comrades on the secretariat will give me the opportunity to continue my work as a director."

"The 27th CPSU Congress gave a powerful charge of energy; its creative spirit permeates the life of the people and demands that we as filmmakers mobilize all our forces. Upon our businesslike attitude, concentration, and decisiveness will depend what films will be shown, let's say, a year or a year-and-a-half from now; it would be even better if the changes would begin to make themselves felt sooner than that. The creative potential of our movie industry is great, and it is our common task to use this potential to its fullest."

"Allow me to quote kolkhoz member Aleksandra Sokolova, the heroine of the movie "Chlen pravitelstva" [A Member of the Government], speaking at the Kremlin: 'The time has come to sow the seeds'. With these simple and clear words I would like to end our conversation."

12825

CSO: 1800/581

THEATER REFORM FAILS TO ADDRESS MAJOR PROBLEMS

Moscow SOVETSKAYA KULTURA in Russian 5 Jul 86 p 4

[Article by USSR Peoples Artist P. Monastyrskiy, chief producer, Kuybyshev Academic Dramatic Theater imeni M. Gorkiy, under the rubric "Theater Reform: Pro and Con": "So That Expectations Would Not Deceive"]

[Text] The editor's office is receiving many letters and materials concerned with the theater experiment and with the competitive system for reelecting actors. Their authors express thoughts about the forthcoming theater reform. Today we publish some of these letters.

Once again the debate on improving the activities of the theater rages. But this time the discussion, which was continued in SOVETSKAYA KULTURA with S. Aleshin's article having the highly meaningful title "In Expectation...", is in a sense rising to a new, more concrete level. The USSR Ministry of Culture has drawn up a plan for reforming theater affairs. An experiment will begin in the country next year on its basis. This is a serious problem, and thus before talking about the problems that trouble me personally, I would like to suggest that this document be discussed in the theatric circles and in the press, since collective wisdom will doubtlessly contribute many improvements and additions to the forthcoming experiment.

But now let me share my ideas.

It is perhaps no secret to anyone that improving creativity is an especially important problem in provincial theater. It is namely in provincial theater that a process of uncreative, uncalled-for existence of dramatic art has been manifesting itself for more than just one year. Here is what we need to determine right from the start: What will the reform do for the oblast and republic dramatic and musical stage? What will it do to make the life of these collectives easier, and can it do anything at all?

From my point of view we cannot expect much from the forthcoming experiment to be carried out on the basis of the reform plan. A number of items in it look unpersuasive right from the start, and therefore it will perhaps be unable to effect radical renewal of the provincial theatric process. Why?

Because the theater itself is responsible for the drop in prestige of our provincial theater and, in part, of the capital's theater. It has ceased to be a spectacle to the spectator, one which could agitate, alarm and interest him. How, and in what way, will the forthcoming experiment help to attract the audience's interest and attention to the theater?

Without going into the merits of the plan for the reform (they were discussed quite well by playwright S. Aleshin), let me go on to the doubts.

Let me begin with the problems of financial planning. The plan suggests preserving the number of tickets sold as one of the main planning and accounting indicators of the theater's work. But who can possibly not be aware today that this indicator does not reflect the real picture of our life? Tickets distributed "by hook or by crook" are included in such reports, but they do nothing to fill theater seats. It is obvious that the only guaranteed spectator is the one who himself buys a ticket. Therefore the quantitative criterion of the theater's activity should be not the total number of tickets sold but only those tickets which are sold by the box office directly.

Another item of the plan considers expanding the rights of the theater administrator. It suggests giving him the possibility for establishing the size of bonuses. But how are these bonuses to be paid? Out of the wage economization fund, the plan replies. But what sort of economization are we talking about? After all, every theater administrator knows that it is practically nonexistent. Does this mean, then, that a good and useful idea is destined to be sidelined? No, it will not help to improve our theater affairs, unless.... Unless we can find some way to make this idea work. This would be possible on one condition: Given that the wage fund remains unchanged, the administration must be allowed to decide on a number of employees that is smaller than the official figure. Then we would have a possibility for raising the wages of the most worthy workers. This practice has long been known in Soviet economics--it is the so-called Shchekino method. It is time to carry it over into the activities of creative collectives.

To go on, the plan says nothing about raising the proficiency of actors and producers, about improving the system for training creative personnel, or about the problems of repertoire. And yet both our greatest weaknesses and our greatest reserves are rooted in this group of problems. What words shall we utter from the stage, and how shall we utter them, what thoughts and ideas, what problems shall we entertain, and how shall we present them to the audience? These are the paramount questions of our creative life. Does this not mean, then, that as we embark upon the experiment and the reform, we must first of all, and most of all, discuss dramatic composition, which is the foundation of our creativity?

A work cannot be recognized to be art if it is not socially significant. However, even the most useful idea, if it is not expounded through artistically integral characters and images, but is only proclaimed with words, does little to persuade anyone either.

And yet we are often oriented on the need for putting on certain plays simply because they treat the biting issues of our life today. How they are treated is not discussed. Thus it can be no surprise that theaters are not very interested in such works, that they are not interested in raising their creativity, and that they do not attract an audience. Systematically fed by dramatic composition of this level, theaters find themselves simply helpless before the countenance of a complex dramatic composition when it shows up in the plans for new repertoires. Moreover only works of substance can serve as the grounds for growth of the proficiency of producers and actors; only such works can provide a possibility for serious conversation with the audience, for raising its interest.

Russian and foreign classics have invariably been a part of the repertoire of the Kuybyshev dramatic theater for many years. "The Barbarians," "The Zykovs," "The Vacationers," "The Seagull," "The Inspector General," "Tartuf" and "The Brothers Karamazov" (a play in two parts) live on our stage side by side with the plays of Leonov and Rozov, the works of the young playwrights Kozlovskiy and Dozortsev, and the philosophical quests of Durrenmatt, Williams and Bruckner. Working with such dramatic composition, actors and producers grow by surmounting the difficulties. And what is especially pleasing is that our auditorium is full every evening, and four-fifths of all of the tickets are sold by our box office.

As far as the actor's shop is concerned, many unpromising workers have accumulated side by side with interesting, creative individuals. They occupy official positions, and by that alone they keep us from solving the problems of creating interesting and brilliant collectives and shows. Someone once came up with the idea that a system for reelecting actors for a five-year term would help solve the problem of infusing fresh forces into the troupe. There was little to hope for from doing so, and that is what I will attempt to show.

The reelection experiment was carried out for 10 years in 160 theaters. And what happened? In all that time, 1,100 actors lost their jobs by not being reelected for another five-year term. In other words an average of 110 actor's vacancies occurred each year in all 160 troupes, which is an average of 0.7 persons per theater. I ask you, can a troupe be invigorated by replacing one official unit, and a partial one I might add?

Here are the figures from the experience of our theater: In 8 years of the experiment 90 performers were reelected for a new term, and only three were not reelected. Could these three vacated positions help renew and invigorate the collective over a period of 8 years?

Well then, it might be argued that we have possibilities for replenishing the roster of performers with graduates of university acting departments. Can this solve the personnel problems? It is highly doubtful that it could. Because the quality of VUZ actor training leaves something to be desired.

Our professional school has even instituted correspondence courses. Little need be said about how little this form of training gives our personnel.

The absolute majority of those who have graduated from correspondence acting departments have experienced no change in the level of their artistic creativity. But as they say, a diploma has never hurt anybody. However the problem is that by virtue of their diplomas former correspondence students obtain the right to teach, to train a new generation of actors, and what this does is simply to duplicate a low professional level.

I would like to believe that I am not alone in making such gloomy assessments. But what can be done to correct the situation? In my opinion we need to reorient the personnel training system toward practical experience. A number of theaters are headed by strong and experienced producers. Their collectives have plenty of brilliant actors. Would this not be the place to educate strong, creative replacements?

Many times I have offered my services to the State Institute of Theatrical Art. But no one there understands what I am trying to say. It would be not bad at all if prominent producers of the capital cities and the provinces would take two or three students from producing and acting departments under their wing. After 2 or 3 years of training in the VUZ they could complete their education more successfully in theater collectives. Then they would gain the living practical experience of the theater in our troupes, which would allow them to enter their profession and their productive life more confidently.

The theater reform must begin with a reform of the system for training creative personnel--this is my deep conviction. True, were it to be approved, this measure would require considerable outlays of time and effort, but it could help to raise the level of work of the theaters. And it is precisely today's mediocre level that acts as a most serious obstacle to increasing the potential of theater art as an inherent part of the esthetic and moral indoctrination of the Soviet citizen.

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CULTURE

CHINESE COMMENTS ON SOVIET MOVIE SERIES

PM231448 [Editorial Report] Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 7 July 1986 morning edition carries on page 5 under the headline "'The Dawns Here Are Quiet...' on Beijing screens; for the 30th anniversary of the USSR-PRC Cultural Cooperation Agreement" a 900-word Yu. Savenkov Beijing dispatch on the reaction of Chinese viewers to a series of Soviet movies on Chinese TV. Savenkov attended a discussion group at a Beijing language institute and heard one student describing the movie "The Dawns Here Are Quiet..." as showing "the terrible price at which peace was won and how important it is to preserve that peace." The movie in question was first shown on Chinese TV in 1983 and was the "first in a series of recent Soviet movies." Zhang Wenqin, director of China TV's center for the preparation of foreign movies for broadcast, states that they show "certain Soviet movies several times, often on request," and that "a movie like 'The Dawns Here Are Quiet...' is a gift for our young people."

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SOCIAL ISSUES

USSR JUSTICE MINISTER ON LEGAL SERVICES IN INDUSTRY, STATE

Moscow KHOZYAYSTVO I PRAVO in Russian No 6, Jun 86 (signed to press 2 Jun 86)
pp 3-9

[Interview with Boris Vasilyevich Kravtsov, USSR minister of justice and 27th CPSU Congress delegate, by special correspondent A. Vaksyan: "At the Beginning of a Planned Route"; date and place not given]

[Text] The Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the entire Soviet population have begun carrying out the grand decisions of the historic 27th CPSU Congress.

The personnel of judicial bodies and establishments, the courts, all Soviet jurists and all experts and administrators performing legal work in the national economy must also contribute to the acceleration of the country's economic and social development and the quickest possible eradication of negative phenomena.

The editors asked Boris Vasilyevich Kravtsov, USSR minister of justice and 27th CPSU Congress delegate, to answer some questions of interest to the journal's readers.

The interview B. V. Kravtsov granted our correspondent is printed below.

[Question] The 27th CPSU Congress completed its work on 6 March. What, Boris Vasilyevich, are your personal feelings about this historic event in the life of the people, the party and the state?

[Answer] These were 9 unforgettable days of intense creative work. Everything that happened at the congress is evoking a tremendous outburst of energy. The work of the congress was permeated by the atmosphere of a self-critical, businesslike, constructive and scientifically sound approach to the resolution of specific problems and the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development.

The congress will occupy a special place in the history of our state. The country's successes in all spheres were highly commended. At the same time, the perceptible decline of rates of economic development, discovered in recent

years, was frankly admitted. In particular, it was noted that negative processes have not been assessed accordingly. Feelings of complacency and laxity are widespread. The absence of extensive publicity, criticism and self-criticism and effective control in some place has precluded resolute struggle against everything impeding our advancement.

The forum of communists answered the most burning questions of the day and armed the party and the Soviet people with strategic decisions. Our country and the entire Soviet society have reached a major turning point. The force of intentions must now be converted into the force of action.

The decisions of the congress are extremely realistic. They stipulate difficult but completely attainable goals. All of the documents are united by a single idea--the need to accelerate the country's socioeconomic development.

The time has come for each one of us to resolutely and actively carry out these decisions.

[Question] Please tell us the main measures the ministry will take to accomplish the tasks set by the congress.

[Answer] At an extended session of the ministerial collegium in April 1986, we discussed the duties of judicial bodies and establishments and the courts in connection with the decisions of the 27th party congress.

The collegium devoted considerable attention to the improvement of the legislative activity of the Ministry of Justice. The readers of the journal must know that specific measures will be taken in connection with the congress decisions. They include the preparation of several legislative instruments for the improvement of planning and the administrative mechanism, the acceleration of scientific and technical progress, the improvement of product quality and the further development of socialist democracy. Problems in the social sphere and a more intense struggle against negative phenomena will be given special attention.

With a view to this and to the proposals of ministries, departments and scientific establishments, the USSR Ministry of Justice drafted a plan for the preparation of legislative measures of the USSR and decrees of the USSR Government in 1986-1990. Many ministries and departments will participate in its fulfillment (after its ratification), but a special role will be assigned to the USSR Ministry of Justice. Therefore, a great deal remains to be done for the further improvement of our legislation and the enhancement of its quality. Another matter of central concern in ministerial activity is the need to improve the work style and methods of judicial bodies and establishments and the courts in order to strengthen their influence in the struggle against misappropriation, graft, speculation, unearned income, parasitism, drunkenness and alcoholism.

A plan of basic measures has been drafted for the accomplishment of tasks stipulated in congress decisions in the next 2 years. Besides this, as I have already said, measures will be taken to improve the activities of judicial

bodies in the organizational management of the courts, the improvement of legal work in the national economy, the activities of legal offices, legal education and the performance of legal services for the public, the further improvement of the quality of expert examinations and, of course, the enhancement of the impact of all crime-prevention measures. The thorough improvement of work with personnel will be treated as an important matter.

[Question] Tell us more about the legislative instruments that are already being drafted by the ministry or with its assistance.

[Answer] The USSR Ministry of Justice is now working with several other ministries and departments to draft a USSR law on product quality, a decree of the USSR Council of Ministers on the extension of broader rights and a more important role to state arbitral bodies to strengthen contractual discipline, a statute on the State Committee of the USSR for Computer Technology and Information Science and a decree of the USSR Council of Ministers on the heightened liability of ministries, associations and supply enterprises and agencies for the nonfulfillment of delivery plans and of transport organizations for freight plans and the increased use of economic leverage in these cases.

General statutes on the ministries of the USSR and state committees of the USSR and other important legislative instruments are also being drafted.

Such legislative documents as the Law on Inventions, the Standard Statute on the Intersectorial Scientific and Technical Complex and the Standard Statute on the Engineering Center should also be an effective means of accelerating scientific and technical progress.

A law is now being drafted on the procedure for the nationwide discussion of major national issues and for nationwide votes on these issues and on the public discussion of the projected decisions of local soviets.

Documents on measures to intensify the struggle against unearned income have already been approved. In addition, acts will be drafted for the more precise regulation of the constitutionally allowed individual activity in arts and crafts, agriculture, domestic service and other spheres.

We also hope to submit proposals on the supplementation and amendment of some articles of the USSR Law on Labor Collectives. This will be done for the purpose of augmenting the independence and responsibility of collectives and developing the initiative of their members.

A legislative instrument is being drafted in accordance with Article 58 of the USSR Constitution on the procedure for the appeal of cases involving unlawful abuses of power by officials to the detriment of civil rights.

I will conclude my answer to this question with the following statement. The preparation of the Law Code of the USSR was recently completed: 158 of the 1,400 acts were rewritten or reworded. Over 1,500 obsolete acts were declared totally or partially invalid.

The code will be updated at least twice a year in 1987 and 1988 and quarterly in subsequent years.

[Question] Here is a question of special interest to the readers of our journal (after all, most of them are legal counsels): What is being done and what still remains to be done to reinforce the legal services of enterprises, organizations and soviets of people's deputies and to improve the organization of legal work?

[Answer] The legal corps of the national economy has grown much stronger in the last 15 years: The number of legal service personnel rose from 25,000 to 82,000. In some branches of industry, in transportation and construction, at many enterprises and in organizations of the State Agroindustrial Committee of the USSR, however, legal services are still few in number and poorly organized. Many legal counseling positions in several parts of the country have remained vacant or, what is worse, have been filled by people without an education in law.

Several ministries and departments are to blame for this, and they must correct these errors. A great deal also depends on the union republic councils of ministers. For several years the USSR Ministry of Justice has been working with them to establish a balanced system of legal services in each sector, beginning with the determination of the actual need for personnel on the basis of numerical legal service personnel guidelines. The USSR Ministry of Justice is now working with the appropriate branches of USSR Gosplan to complete the summarization of data on the need for jurists.

The work has not been completely devoid of problems, however. Some ministries and departments have taken a formal approach to the work. They have submitted requisitions for specialists with a higher education without considering the developmental prospects of sectors and the capabilities of law schools.

There is some potential for the improvement of legal services, in our opinion, in the elimination of organizational shortcomings. On the basis of the information of the USSR Ministry of Justice, ministries and departments of the USSR and union republic councils of ministers were recently asked to take the necessary measures to heighten the role of legal services, reinforce legal staffs and eliminate existing shortcomings. These have already produced results. For example, legal divisions have been established in the USSR Ministry of Health and the State Committee of the USSR for Vocational and Technical Education. The Ministry of the Radio Industry is the only union ministry left without a legal division. The majority of ministries and departments of the USSR have issued orders, published collegial decrees and issued the appropriate instructions on the local level for the organizational reinforcement of the legal services of enterprises and organizations.

Much also remains to be done to strengthen the influence of the legal offices of local soviets on the state of law and order. The legal counsels in these offices are still few in number. Only one out of every six ispolkoms of local soviets has a legal office. The further development of these services will depend primarily on the union republic councils of ministers. In Estonia, for example, they were able to establish organizational-legal offices in all

of the ispolkoms of rayon and city soviets. The absolute majority are headed by jurists, and around half of the personnel of these offices have law degrees.

We attach great importance to the activity of the non-staff legal divisions and boards of legal counsels set up in ispolkoms. For example, the non-staff legal divisions established by all ispolkoms in Yaroslavl Oblast are successfully assisting authorities in the performance of their duties.

The approval of lists of positions which should be filled in ispolkoms by people with law degrees is now being considered on the republic level. A positive decision on this matter will help to strengthen the legal system of the ispolkoms.

The regrettable fact that many legal service personnel have not become effective organizers of legal work at enterprises warrants special mention. The statements made at the congress about the inertia, passivity and lack of initiative of some of our personnel apply completely to some legal counsels.

This is corroborated by the inadequate measures taken at the majority of enterprises to collect damages for unlawful actions by personnel, especially administrators.

We expect every member of the legal corps of the national economy to take principled and resolute action to eradicate negative behavior, strengthen state, contractual and labor discipline and improve legal educational work in collectives. It is precisely this that will strengthen the status and enhance the prestige of legal service personnel.

As far as the personnel of judicial bodies are concerned, they must always strive to reveal cases of the non-fulfillment of contractual obligations and other shortcomings, thoroughly analyze their causes and issue recommendations to administrators and legal counsels on the ways and means of eliminating shortcomings and improving the quality of legal work.

[Question] Do you feel it is necessary to "update" the General Statute on the Legal Division and Legal Counsel?

[Answer] Yes, of course. There is an urgent need to update this document. Jurists working in the national economy have been quite insistent in reminding us of this need in their letters.

The drafting of amendments and addenda to the general statute has been going on for a long time and is in its final stage. It goes without saying that the decisions of the 27th party congress are being taken into account. The amendments and addenda are intended to enhance the role of legal services in the struggle against violations of contractual and labor discipline, mismanagement and offenses against state and public property and to secure the high quality of products by legal means.

[Question] How are judicial bodies and the courts combating misappropriation, graft and mismanagement, as well as drunkenness and alcoholism?

[Answer] The job of stopping the mercenary misuse of socialist property is not a simple one.

Special effort must be made to secure the safety of valuable goods in trade organizations, the consumer cooperative network, in transportation, in the agroindustrial complex and at enterprises of the food (processing) industry. After all, it is here that most of the offenses of this type are committed.

Measures have been taken recently for the more complete reimbursement of financial losses resulting from misappropriation and dishonest bookkeeping.

The forms of crime prevention practiced by the courts cover a broad range and are enriched each year. They include investigations of the state of affairs in "trouble spots," the widespread organization of joint (with administrators, internal affairs organs and the procuracy) conferences, circuit court sessions, analyses of law enforcement practices in hearings of various categories and the preparation of recommendations for law enforcement bodies. The ministry participated in drafting the statute on the procedure for the transmission of information about shortcomings, misappropriation and mercenary crimes and about the negligence of officials and financially liable individuals to investigative bodies, pre-trial investigators and the procuracy.

The improvement of the work of court expert agencies in the prevention of misappropriation is another of our main concerns. It is a matter of primary importance to improve the quality of literally all facets of the activities of judicial bodies and courts. The number of interlocutory orders issued by the courts to enterprises and organizations on the elimination of various types of shortcomings has recently increased perceptibly. Unfortunately, this does not mean that their quality has improved. Courts do not always make qualified recommendations on the elimination of errors and are still doing little to oversee the execution of these orders.

We are also dissatisfied with the "quality" of responses to court decisions and to the recommendations of judicial bodies. There are still cases in which they are simply ignored.

Perhaps the courts should impose sanctions (warnings, fines and so forth) on officials who ignore interlocutory orders.

Our personnel should be in constant contact with labor collectives. The thorough analysis and investigation of the state of affairs in labor collectives and constant businesslike contact with them will certainly stimulate productive joint efforts to eliminate legal offenses and their causes. This work should be constantly coordinated with other law enforcement bodies and labor collectives.

Judicial bodies and the courts have taken a much more active part in the important job of surmounting drunkenness and alcoholism and eradicating illegal distillation since the middle of 1985. Suffice it to say that the intensity of the enforcement of laws on the limitation of the capacity of people who abuse alcohol has recently risen by 70 percent. Chronic alcoholics

have been ordered to seek medical treatment more frequently. The issuance of interlocutory orders to enterprise administrators and to individual officials on the elimination of the causes and conditions giving rise to this antisocial behavior has become the rule.

Many cases are now tried outside the courts in the labor collective or place of residence of the wrongdoer.

There have been fewer crimes committed under the influence of alcohol in 1986. Experience in the use of legal means of eradicating drunkenness and alcoholism is constantly summarized and disseminated.

The struggle against drunkenness, however, is not this determined in all places. Judicial bodies have not established the proper contact with local branches of the All-Union Voluntary Society for Struggle for Sobriety or the commissions set up at enterprises to combat drunkenness.

It is the duty of judicial bodies and courts to aid in the compilation and implementation of a precise long range program of action to eradicate drunkenness in each region and use their authority actively for the complete elimination of this negative phenomenon.

[Question] What are the basic areas of work by the personnel of the legal profession and notariate in carrying out the Comprehensive Program for the Development of Consumer Goods Production and Services in 1986-2000?

Will measures be taken so that people do not have to waste their time in ministerial establishments?

[Answer] In the 12th Five-Year Plan the volume of public legal services should increase 1.3-fold, and by 2000 the increase should be from 2.1-fold to 2.3-fold.

This will necessitate a qualitatively new approach to the study of public demand for legal services. This will entail not only the expansion of the network of public notary offices and legal consultants, but also the radical improvement of the quality of their work. These establishments should be opened in every administrative region in the future.

Flexible schedules of business hours have now been established in all of the courts and institutions of the ministerial network. Public access to attorneys and notaries directly at their place of employment or residence is being organized. Suffice it to say that the number of public consultation centers at enterprises and in residential neighborhoods now exceeds 26,500. The result has been a perceptible decrease in complaints about long lines in offices and counseling centers. Nevertheless, there are still shortcomings in the organization of public counseling services and shortcomings of other types. In 1985, for example, hearings on 26 criminal and civil cases had to be postponed in the Sovetskiy Rayon People's Court in Orel, and frequently because of the non-appearance of attorneys. This meant that 60 people had to be summoned to court more than once. In the Supreme Court of Tajikistan appeals were heard only once a week. There were no evening business hours

here either. It is clear that people have to waste a great deal of work time because of this. When cases of this kind are discovered, the ministry immediately takes measures to correct these shortcomings.

But there are also problems in the work of judicial establishments which we can only eliminate with the aid of enterprise and organization managers. According to point 2 of the ukase of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium of 4 August 1983, enterprises are obligated to testify to the accuracy of the copies of the documents citizens are required to submit to these enterprises. This procedure must be observed in all cases unless the submission of notarized copies of documents is directly stipulated in legislation. Many enterprise officials, especially in personnel divisions, are not fulfilling this obligation. As a result, citizens are wasting time in notary offices, acquiring certified copies of documents, although this could easily be done without stepping outside the enterprise.

A few words must also be said about the notary office's function of strengthening legality in economic relations. The main form of this work is the compilation of certifications of judgments for the collection of arrears from debtors for enterprises. Unfortunately, the managers of many enterprises and their bookkeeping and legal offices do not request notary offices for these documents for the collection of debts without recourse to the courts. As far as the notary offices are concerned, I must say that they have been instructed to perform this work more actively, including the performance of the necessary counseling services for enterprise personnel.

[Question] What are the basic plans for the improvement of the legal education of citizens?

[Answer] I will not speak of our achievements in this important area. There have been many of them and everyone knows about them. Recently, however, activity in the sphere of legal education has been less dynamic and has displayed elements of stagnation. Judicial personnel can hardly be expected to correct the situation without the effective assistance and support of an entire series of ministries and departments and of administrators. I will mention just the main problems.

Some people forget that offenders are frequently people they know quite well. Education is distinguished from simple notification by its ability to reach the hearts of people. Experience tells us that it is much more difficult to rehabilitate a "legal nihilist" than to educate a decent, fair and honest person. A correct set of legal ethics stems from the individual's early childhood. This is when legal education should begin. In particular, the study of law should begin in elementary school. The law schools of VUZ's should offer a major in "teaching Soviet law." More time should be devoted to the study of legal ethics in all types of academic institutions. The emotional impact of these classes should be heightened everywhere and the classes should deal with the actual concerns of the Soviet society. This is the only way of cultivating intolerance for negative behavior.

A comprehensive program for the legal education of youth should be drafted within the near future.

The decree of the CPSU Central Committee "On Measures To Intensify the Struggle Against Unearned Income" states: "The organization of extensive legal education for managerial and economic personnel and for the entire population should be considered essential." Carrying out this order will necessitate a great deal of creative work on the central and local levels. Law enforcement agencies, including the judiciary, have an important role to play in this process.

I must say a few words about a valuable initiative. The Council of Ministers of the Mary ASSR recently published a decree on the legal certification of managerial personnel. The experiment which is being conducted in the republic warrants the closest attention.

[Question] In conclusion, Boris Vasilyevich, we would like to know what you have to say to the readers of the journal.

[Answer] The fulfillment of the 27th CPSU Congress decisions will first necessitate a discerning "inventory" of past accomplishments. We must discard everything that is obsolete or unsuitable under new conditions and develop and arm ourselves with everything new and progressive accumulated in the past and engendered each day and each hour by the vital creativity of the masses.

A clear and precisely executed plan of work to legally secure the fulfillment of the historic congress decisions is an essential condition for success. The reinforcement of the legal system and of state, contractual and labor discipline, the guarantee of the high quality of products and labor, the guarantee of the safety of public property, the acceleration of scientific and technical progress and the introduction of cost accounting principles of economic management everywhere are all goals which will certainly be attained on the condition of the active and purposeful use of the entire complex of legal means on the local level. We are at the beginning of a planned route, a difficult and unique journey. We must mobilize all reserves.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the readers of KHOZYAYSTVO I PRAVO and its contributing authors good health, happiness and success in their intense, creative and conscientious labor!

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SOCIAL ISSUES

SUPREME COURT OFFICIAL ON CITIZENS' CRITICISM OF WRONGDOINGS

Moscow KHOZYAYSTVO I PRAVO in Russian No 6, Jun 86 (signed to press 2 Jun 86)
pp 43-47

[Text of Decree No 9 of USSR Supreme Court Plenum of 18 April 1986, "On the Judicial Enforcement of Laws on the Liability of Officials for Violations of the Procedure for the Investigation of Citizens' Proposals, Appeals and Complaints and Persecution for Criticism," and commentary by A. M. Filatov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Court Criminal Cases Collegium]

[Text] On 18 April 1986 the USSR Supreme Court Plenum published Decree No 9 "On the Judicial Enforcement of Laws on the Liability of Officials for Violations of the Procedure for the Investigation of Citizens' Proposals, Appeals and Complaints and Persecution for Criticism."
The text of this decree is printed below.

The USSR Constitution established and secured the right of USSR citizens to submit proposals to government bodies and public organizations on the improvement of their activities and to criticize shortcomings in their work. The comments of citizens represent one form of their participation in the management of state and public affairs, an important means of exercising and defending individual rights and an important source of the information needed for the attainment of short- and long-range goals in state, economic and socio-cultural construction.

The decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress underscore the need for heightened activity by workers in surmounting shortcomings, abuses and deviations from legal and moral standards. Now that the party has announced a resolute struggle against bureaucratism, it is demanding the careful and thorough investigation of each appeal and complaint, the institution of effective measures to eliminate disclosed shortcomings and the thorough development of criticism and self-criticism.

The officials responsible will be held accountable in accordance with legislation, to the point of indictment, for violations of the established procedure for the investigation of proposals, appeals and complaints, the bureaucratic treatment of them, red tape and the persecution of citizens for criticism.

Some courts, however, underestimate the social danger of this kind of behavior and ignore the fact that a formal, bureaucratic attitude toward proposals, appeals and complaints and persecution for criticism can severely injure state and public interests and the legal rights and interests of citizens and undermine the authority of state and public organs.

Courts have not shown enough initiative in instituting proceedings against officials committing flagrant violations of labor legislation and persecuting citizens for criticism.

To secure the correct and uniform enforcement of laws on the accountability of officials for violations connected with the investigation of the proposals, appeals and complaints of citizens and persecution for criticism, the USSR Supreme Court plenum decrees:

1. That the attention of the courts will be directed to the need for their heightened involvement in the struggle against violations of the legally established procedure for the investigation of citizens' letters and statements. Upon the discovery of such violations, the bureaucratic treatment of complaints and appeals, red tape or the persecution of citizens for criticism, interlocutory orders will be issued to bring these cases to the attention of a superior body or official, the labor collective or the public organization for a decision on whether disciplinary or social measures should be taken against the guilty parties; whenever justified, criminal proceedings should be instituted in accordance with the appropriate articles of the criminal code.
2. That the nonfulfillment or incorrect fulfillment by an official of his duty to investigate the proposals, appeals and complaints of citizens as a result of a negligent or unconscientious attitude toward them (the failure to take measures to eliminate disclosed shortcomings and violations, unjustified delays in the redress of complaints, the failure to monitor the fulfillment of decisions or other signs of bureaucratism), resulting in the infliction of substantial damages on state or public interests or on the legally protected rights and interests of citizens, will entail accountability in accordance with Article 172 of the RSFSR Criminal Code and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics, unless the legislation of the union republic stipulates otherwise.
3. That if the violations of the established procedure for the investigation of proposals, appeals and complaints, the bureaucratic treatment of them and red tape stem from deliberate actions by an official motivated by mercenary or other personal interests and if they inflict substantial damages on state or public interests or the legally protected rights and interests of citizens, or if they have grave consequences, the nature of the offense will be determined in accordance with Article 170 of the RSFSR Criminal Code and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics.
4. That in the case of the deliberate infringement of the labor, housing, property and other rights and legal interests of citizens by an official in connection with persecution for the submission of proposals, appeals or complaints or for the criticism they contain, and for criticism in any other form,

the nature of the offense will be determined, depending on the degree of injury, in accordance with part one or part two of Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics.

When a decision is made on whether the damages to the rights and legally protected interests of citizens are substantial, the nature of ensuing consequences must be taken into account, including the degree of moral injury, the amount of financial damages and the degree of infringement of the labor and personal non-property rights and interests of citizens.

5. That in criminal cases involving liability for the persecution of citizens for criticism, the courts must make a special effort to establish a connection between the criticism and the subsequent unlawful actions of the official.

In the investigation of cases involving reinstatement in jobs, the cancellation of disciplinary penalties, the payment of bonuses and other labor disputes, the courts must carefully verify the plaintiffs' claims that the violation of their rights was the result of submitted proposals, appeals and complaints or critical remarks.

6. That in accordance with existing legislation, the property damages suffered by citizens as a result of actions committed by officials for the purpose of persecution for criticism will be reimbursed by the enterprise, establishment or organization. In a criminal case, this matter can be decided on the court's initiative. The enterprise, establishment or organization paying the damages has the right to claim compensation from the guilty party in the amount paid to the injured party.

If there are elements of crime in the official's violation of labor legislation in connection with persecution for criticism, this official will be financially liable for the full amount of the damages inflicted on the enterprise, establishment or organization by the payment of the average wage to the worker during the period of his absence from work or during the period he worked in a lower-paying job.

7. That after sentence has been passed on guilty parties for a crime listed in Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics, the courts should consider an additional penalty in the form of the disqualification of these individuals from certain positions.

8. That in view of the great social significance of cases involving the accountability of officials for violations connected with the investigation of the proposals, appeals and complaints of citizens and persecution for criticism, the courts will be urged to try these cases in outside sessions with representatives of public organizations and labor collectives in attendance; that the press, radio and other mass media will be used more extensively to cover these trials.

9. That the attention of the courts should be directed to the fact that the law defends the rights and interests of citizens but it also envisages the

accountability of individuals for the submission of statements and complaints for slanderous purposes. If it is established that they have been submitted for the purpose of spreading obviously false and defamatory lies about another person, this person should be informed of his right to sue for slander.

If an anonymous letter, statement or complaint contains obviously false information about the commission of a crime or slander, the liability for which is envisaged in parts two or three of Article 130 of the RSFSR Criminal Code and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics, the court is obligated to institute criminal proceedings.

On the basis of Article 7 of the Fundamentals of Civil Legislation of the USSR and the Union Republics, citizens and organizations have the right to demand the judicial refutation of information defaming their honor and dignity.

10. That Decree No 4 of the USSR Supreme Court Plenum of 29 August 1980 shall be invalid.

The editors asked A. M. Filatov, chairman of the USSR Supreme Court Criminal Cases Collegium, for his comments on this plenum decree. Here is what he said.

The need to publish this decree stemmed primarily from the social danger of such negative phenomena as bureaucratism, persecution for criticism and existing shortcomings in the efforts of law enforcement agencies, including the courts, to prevent and stop them.

The decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress underscore the importance of a resolute, merciless struggle against bureaucratism, which today represents, in Comrade M. S. Gorbachev's words, "a serious obstacle impeding the attainment of our main objective--the acceleration of the country's socioeconomic development and the related radical reorganization of the mechanism of economic management."

There are still frequent cases of the formal or bureaucratic treatment of the proposals, appeals and complaints of citizens by some officials, red tape in their investigation and the persecution of citizens for criticism. This inflicts severe injury on the authority of state and public organs, and frequently also causes damages in the sphere of economic and social relations and the infringement of the legal rights and interests of Soviet citizens. The suppression of criticism and persecution for it represent a grave social danger.

Judicial experience in cases involving professional reinstatement, the recovery of bonuses and other categories of labor disputes proves that some officials persecute workers for criticism.

Here is an example. During the investigation of R's suit for reinstatement in his job as senior construction foreman at the Oktyabrskiy Sovkhoz of the Kuybyshev Skotoprom Trust, the Leninskiy Rayon People's Court in Kuybyshev

established that R. had been wrongfully dismissed from work in accordance with §2 of Article 33 of the RSFSR Labor Code. His performance evaluation in this job had been conducted unobjectively and in flagrant violation of the established procedure. The evaluation commission concluded that R. was unsuited for his job. In this case, the sovkhos administration was obligated by law to offer R. another job in his occupation. R., however, was offered the job of janitor in the hog complex or weigher of garbage, although it would have been possible to give him a job in his specialty, considering his record of service in construction organizations for close to 30 years. The court reinstated R. in his job because he had essentially been dismissed for criticizing sovkhos Director B. The decision of the court stated that the plaintiff had been dismissed on the orders of the director after the plaintiff had reported the director's abuses of his position of authority to the procuracy and to people's control organs and had discussed them at party meetings. In spite of these facts, the court did not consider the institution of criminal proceedings against B. Later B. was dismissed from his job for wrongful behavior.

The new Article 139¹, "The Persecution of Citizens for Criticism," was added to the criminal code of the Russian Federation by an ukase of the RSFSR Supreme Soviet Presidium on 30 October 1985. The criminal codes of all other union republics were supplemented accordingly. Now persecution for criticism is a criminal offense.

Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code says: "The deliberate infringement of the rights and legally protected interests of a citizen by an official to persecute him for submitting proposals, appeals or claims in the established manner or for the criticism they contain, and also for criticism in any other form, will be punishable by a fine of up to 300 rubles or by dismissal from office.

"Behavior of this kind which inflicts substantial damages on the rights and legally protected interests of the citizen will be punishable by up to 2 years in prison, or from 1 to 2 years of corrective labor, or dismissal from office."

A question arose in this connection--Exactly what kind of offense is the deliberate infringement of the labor, housing, property and other rights and legal interests of citizens in connection with their persecution for criticism?

The earlier Decree No 4 of the USSR Supreme Court Plenum of 29 August 1980 stated that if such actions infringed upon the labor rights of the worker, the guilty official would be charged with the violation of Article 138 of the RSFSR Criminal Code, and if they infringed upon other rights, he would be charged with violating Article 172 of the RSFSR Criminal Code (criminal negligence) or Article 170 of the RSFSR Criminal Code (abuse of authority) and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics, unless the legislation of a union republic stipulates otherwise.

Decree No 9 of the USSR Supreme Court Plenum of 18 April 1986 gives the matter a different interpretation, essentially saying that, regardless of the object of infringement, the guilty official will be charged with the violation of

Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics stipulating his liability for the persecution of citizens for criticism. The object of criminal infringement here is a broad range of rights and legally protected interests of the citizen. They are not listed in the article, and it would probably be impossible to list them all. Experience has shown that persecution for criticism most often infringes upon the labor rights of citizens. They are wrongfully dismissed from their jobs, demoted, deprived of bonuses and so forth.

For this reason, in these cases the guilty officials should be charged with violating Article 139¹, and not Article 138 of the RSFSR Criminal Code, which stipulates the same object of infringement but does not associate the wrongful behavior with persecution for criticism. Readers will be interested in learning that the penalties in Article 138 (up to a year of corrective labor or dismissal from office) are much milder than the penalties in part two of Article 139¹ (up to 2 years in prison, or from 1 to 2 years of corrective labor, or dismissal from office). The behavior of wrongdoers who take revenge for criticism by unlawfully dismissing the worker should be qualified according to part two of Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code. This inflicts substantial injury on the rights and legally protected interests of the citizen, and this is a qualifying feature of part two of Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of union republics.

It goes without saying that part two of Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code does not apply only to cases of the infringement of citizens' labor rights. It would hardly be possible to present a complete list of the other offenses inflicting considerable injury on the rights and legally protected interests of the citizen and therefore covered by this part of Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code. Furthermore, any attempt to clarify the exact meaning of the wording used in the law would unavoidably limit and formalize it.

The plenum explained that the infliction of substantial injury on state or public interests or the rights and legally protected interests of citizens as a result of violations of the established procedure for the investigation of proposals, appeals and complaints, the bureaucratic treatment of these, red tape and the persecution of citizens in connection with submitted proposals, appeals and complaints or the criticism they contain is an essential condition of the criminal liability of officials under part two of Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code.

The decision on whether the injury has been substantial must be based on the specific circumstances of the case, the nature of the ensuing consequences, the amount and extent of financial damages and the degree of the infringement of labor and other rights and interests of the citizen.

The plenum also stipulated that the substantial injury to the citizen's rights and interests should not be interpreted only as property losses. The infringement of the citizen's personal non-property rights and interests--that is, moral injury--should also be taken into account.

When an official has been charged with unlawful actions for the persecution of citizens for criticism, the courts should investigate all of the circumstances thoroughly, completely and objectively. The establishment of a connection between the criticism and the subsequent unlawful actions of the official is especially important. In cases involving professional reinstatement, the cancellation of disciplinary penalties, the payment of bonuses and other labor disputes, the courts should carefully verify the validity of the plaintiffs' claims that the violation of their rights was the result of submitted proposals, appeals and complaints or critical remarks.

The following fact is noteworthy in this connection. Violators of labor discipline and other dishonest people sometimes try to use the Soviet laws for their own selfish purposes. To evade responsibility for their actions, they try to portray the legal measures taken against them as a reaction to their critical remarks or their reports to the appropriate organs about shortcomings and errors in the work of enterprises and individual officials. In some cases these statements are defamatory and slanderous.

For example, when M. sued the pedagogical institute for professional reinstatement, the Kzyl-Orda Municipal People's Court in the Kazakh SSR established that the plaintiff had been dismissed from the position of docent in the department of pedagogics and psychology unlawfully after several failing women students had written a letter to the board of rectors about his alleged unscrupulous and amoral behavior. The court reinstated M. in his job because the accusation was slanderous. The court did not take action, however, on the evidence of criminal slander.

The plenum explained that the law stipulates the liability of citizens for the submission of statements and complaints for slanderous purposes. For this reason, if it is established that the statement or complaint was submitted for the purpose of spreading obviously false and defamatory rumors about another person, this person should be informed of his right to sue for slander. In those cases when an anonymous letter, statement or complaint contains obviously false information about the commission of a crime or slander, the liability for which is stipulated in parts two or three of Article 130 of the RSFSR Criminal Code and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics, the court is obligated to institute criminal proceedings.

The choice of the correct and fair penalty plays an important role. The plenum instructed the courts that after sentence has been passed in accordance with Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics, the additional penalty of disqualification for certain positions should be considered.

This demand stems from the plenum's interpretation of Article 26 of the Fundamentals of Criminal Legislation, in accordance with which, in each case of a crime committed by a person in connection with the performance of his duties or the occupation of a specific position, the court is obligated to consider, in view of the nature of the crime, depriving the defendant of the right to occupy certain positions or work in certain fields. In this case, the decree specifically stresses that in cases dealing with crimes covered by

Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code, the additional penalty should only concern the occupation of certain positions, and not work in specific fields, because the nature of the offense is directly related to the guilty party's unlawful use of his official position.

The legislation of the USSR and union republics also stipulates the financial liability of the official if citizens suffer property damages as a result of his unlawful actions.

In connection with this, the decree explains that the personal or property damages the citizen incurs as a result of actions committed by an official for the purpose of persecution for criticism are to be reimbursed by the enterprise, establishment or organization in accordance with existing legislation. In the case of a criminal trial, the matter can be settled on the court's initiative. The enterprise, establishment or organization paying the damages has the right to claim the amount paid out to the injured party from the guilty party. The official who unlawfully dismisses or transfers a worker in connection with persecution for criticism will be financially liable for the full amount of the damages incurred by the enterprise, establishment or organization in connection with the payment of the average wage to the worker during the period of his absence from work or the period of his performance of a lower-paying job, and for the damages caused by the prosecuted actions.

Experience tells us that some economic managers and other officials commit flagrant violations of the legally established procedure for the investigation of the proposals, appeals and complaints of citizens. What should be done in the cases not covered by Article 139¹ of the RSFSR Criminal Code? The plenum explained that the non-fulfillment or improper fulfillment of duties by an official in connection with the investigation of the proposals, appeals and complaints of citizens due to a negligent or unconscientious attitude toward them (unjustified delays in their redress, the failure to monitor the fulfillment of decisions on these matters, and other signs of bureaucratism), resulting in substantial injury to state or public interests or the legally protected rights and interests of citizens, will entail accountability in accordance with Article 172 of the RSFSR Criminal Code (criminal negligence) and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics.

The people's court in Torez in Donetsk Oblast convicted Chief S. of the Torez gorispolkom housing operation office of criminal negligence. He had dealt unconscientiously with the complaints and appeals of citizens, had been guilty of red tape and bureaucratism in complying with the requests of inhabitants for necessary residential and heating system repairs, did not inform citizens of the decisions made on their requests and did not keep records of complaints. As a result of this, citizens had to repeatedly request municipal and central authorities to correct the irregularities disturbing their rest and limiting the use of residential facilities. The court established that S.'s criminal negligence had inflicted substantial injury on the rights and legally protected interests of citizens and financial damages on state housing, which had become unfit for use as a result of delays in repairs.

In those cases when violations of the established procedure for the investigation of proposals, appeals and complaints, the bureaucratic treatment of them

and red tape are committed deliberately for mercenary or other personal reasons and have inflicted substantial injury on state or public interests or the legally protected rights and interests of citizens, or have had grave consequences, the guilty officials will be charged with violating Article 170 of the RSFSR Criminal Code (abuse of authority) and corresponding articles of the criminal codes of other union republics.

The decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress noted the importance of involving the general public in the struggle against bureaucratism, red tape and persecution for criticism.

In connection with this, the plenum decree recommends that the courts try these cases in outside sessions with representatives of public organizations in attendance and that they make more extensive use of the press, radio and other mass media for the coverage of these trials.

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SOCIAL ISSUES

DEPUTY PROSECUTOR ANSWERS 'PHONE-IN' ON LAW ISSUES

Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 7 Jun 86 pp 1-2

[Answers by Viktor Vasilyevich Naydenov, USSR deputy general prosecutor, to readers' "phone-in" questions, prepared by V. Andriyanov and D. Shevchenko, under the rubric "Direct Line": "Truth Always Wins Out"]

[Text] "Direct Line" recorded more than 200 phone calls and 158 telegrams.

Some of them were answered immediately. Others require careful checking and study. The USSR Prosecutor's Office gave concrete instructions on each telegram, each request received by our editorial office. After checking we will report the results. In the meantime, the first question was ...

[Question] Viktor Vasilyevich, this is Lidiya Arkadyevna Minchik from the city of Bendery in Moldavia. Hello. I am concerned by the problem of unselfish crime, which has been discussed in the press lately. Is it humane to convict a person for acts committed that are, generally speaking, in the interests of production?

[Answer] In the first place, Lidiya Arkadyevna, crimes are not committed in the interests of production. It is a different matter if a crime is committed in a situation of extreme necessity or in defense of state interests. But in these cases people are completely freed of responsibility.

[Question] I have in mind giving bribes to officials.

[Answer] That is a punishable crime...

[Question] But what if the person was not after personal gain, so to speak, got no benefit at all?

[Answer] Then why was the bribe given?

[Question] To fulfill the plan, let's suppose...

[Answer] Well, that means he did have a benefit in mind, and a substantial one. He had a service interest in mind. A certain level of output was needed to fulfill the plan. Right?

[Question] Right...

[Answer] This means we have a case of violation of a delivery contract. The one who was supposed to receive it did not, while the ones who gave the bribe got favorable conditions for their work. We hold bribers responsible.

[Question] But why is receiving a bribe defined by the same article regardless of the amount?

[Answer] Draft laws are now prepared which envision a differentiation. We have to step up the struggle against this evil, non-labor income, in all areas.

[Question] Leningrad here, engineer Astafyev, 50 years of age. At a store today I was told that the rules for exchange of home radio equipment do not give the customer the right to return poor quality goods. But this conflicts with Article 41 of the Civil Code. Tell me please, how can this be?

[Answer] Whose rules are these?

[Question] The Ministry of Trade's.

[Answer] I see. Unfortunately for many years past the departments have adopted so many rules to suit themselves that it is more than an inexperienced person can do to fight them. But you have to! We are now conducting special checks of ministries and departments, identifying rules that conflict with the law, and trying to get them changed. But I cannot deny that we are having quite a few problems. Take television sets, where there are many defective items. We gave a warning to certain sector managers: if they continue turning out that kind of output, we will take them to court. As for the rules you mentioned, I will check again specially. If they are illegal, we will challenge them.

[Question] That would be good. The customer must be given the right to return unusable goods.

[Answer] And enterprises should produce output that does suit people. A law on quality of output is now under development; it envisions greater responsibility for defective goods.

[Question] Hello, Viktor Vasilyevich. This is Militia Captain Nina Iosifovna Vasilchenko, internal affairs department in Pyatigorsk. By the nature of my work I deal with people who have returned from places of imprisonment. They are given 15 days to get a residence pass and job. And yet more than one of these people has told us that by law they cannot work for 4 months.

[Answer] There is no such law.

[Question] Certainly, if a person doesn't work for 4 months, isn't he a parasite?

[Answer] Unquestionably. And what do these people say: we won't work?

[Question] Yes, exactly. And it turns out that we cannot apply special measures to them, except that we -- the district officer and I -- go over and ask them to work. I think that some things in the law need to be made more specific, state precisely the times within which people freed from prison must find work.

[Answer] That's an interesting suggestion. We will consider it.

[Question] I have another question. I am uneasy about the fact that the courts recently have been giving suspended sentences for specially dangerous crimes.

[Answer] That is an illegal practice. Have there been such cases in Pyatigorsk?

[Question] In our inspectorate we had a person who was convicted criminally under Article 145 and was serving a probationary period.

[Answer] What did he do after this?

[Question] Just very recently he raped a minor girl. He is being brought to trial now.

[Answer] I will have to talk with the prosecutor of Stavropol Kray about this particular case. I'll find out why they are doing this. That is absolutely terrible. The point is that a sentence without loss of freedom should be given only for women and persons who have committed insignificant crimes for the first time. Where serious crimes are committed there should be strict, real responsibility. These things have been explained by the Supreme Court, the prosecutor's office, and the Ministry of Internal Affairs.

[Question] Thank you.

[Answer] I wish you success in your difficult field.

[Question] Calling from Kurgan. I work at the Machine Building Plant imeni Lenin. My name is Lemberg. They have put in a system here where you leave work 10 minutes after the shift change. There was a meeting on the collective contract and representatives of our shop were there. They said that the people voted for it. I am not against discipline. I am against spending these 10 minutes standing idle by my machine.

[Answer] I don't quite understand you, Comrade Lemberg. Your story is missing something. In my case, for example, it takes some time after work to put the office in order, gather up papers, and so on. But people often do this, put their work positions in order, during working time. Maybe that is why they made this decision at your plant? They are putting labor discipline in order, so the collective decided...

[Question] But I myself do not agree.

[Answer] All right, let's talk self-critically. When do you finish your shift?

[Question] At 1545 I clean the machine. Then I go and change clothes. At 1600 I am at the gate.

[Answer] How about your output norm?

[Question] I fulfilled my norm.

[Answer] Still it's not right. It means you are capable of doing more during the working day, but you do not. I think your collective decided correctly.

[Telegram from Ryazan] I am taking part in inspections of the preservation of oil products and sometimes run into cases where some of the gas from state vehicles is pumped into private vehicles. The present moral and material measures of influence are ineffective. No one undergoes criminal responsibility for stealing 20-40 liters of gas. Is this correct? -- T. G. Mazur

[Answer] Let me say immediately that it is not correct. We have conducted inspections in a large number of oblasts, for example Kalinin and Gorkiy, in the Armenian and Turkmen SSR's, and elsewhere. What did the inspections show? Gasoline is stolen not only by drivers, but also by people working at filling stations. We are bringing many of them to trial, in Moscow, in the Estonian and Lithuanian SSR's, and in many other cities and oblasts. But punishment alone will not solve the problem: we must resolve the technical questions faster, build devices that will monitor the delivery of gas and lubricants, and step up departmental and non-departmental control.

[Question] Nikolay Mikhaylovich Lebedev from Dnepropetrovsk calling. Viktor Vasilyevich, we are talking very loudly today about improving accounting and control of production and distribution. What is your opinion on this matter?

[Answer] A great deal has been done in recent years to straighten out accounting and control of distribution. The country's control-auditing service has been strengthened, at the suggestion of the USSR Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Finance. First of all we must set up good initial accounting at the enterprises, organizations, and institutions. This is the foundation of foundations. And the next thing is to improve control work.

[Question] Ivan Samarin, Krasnodar Kray. Viktor Vasilyevich, we know that you have had occasion to work with our kray...

[Answer] Yes, in 1979, 80, and 81 we studied incidents of theft in Krasnodar Kray. Unfortunately, these negative phenomena had not received prompt and proper evaluation by law enforcement, party, and Soviet organizations of the kray at that time. This led to growth in the abuses. A large number of executives in trade and other organizations took up theft and bribery. The USSR Prosecutor's Office ultimately brought them to trial and they were convicted.

[Question] And what would you advise those who are being worn down by the fight for justice?

[Answer] Don't give up. Truth absolutely always wins out.

[Question] Comrade Naydenov, Zagribov from Karaganda here. There is a saying: If you're not caught, you're not a thief. Doesn't it seem to you that this is

strongly reflected in our law, so to speak? In many foreign countries they check all sources of income and cases where individuals accumulate large amounts of material assets. And if the income does not match the person's standard of living, it sometimes becomes a matter of confiscation. Isn't this a crushing blow against people with underground income? Why shouldn't we open savings accounts only at the savings office in the place of residence?

[Answer] This question was discussed when measures to combat non-labor income were being prepared. There are still difficulties here. We have a large country. Therefore, efforts now are being focused on measures of a different type and appropriate documents are being prepared. I should not anticipate them in our conversation.

[Question] Viktor Vasilyevich, Sergey Muravyev here. Permit me a personal question? What things do you enjoy?

[Answer] Reading. If I get a free minute, I sit down with a book. And I enjoy music.

[Question] Do you like to read detective stories?

[Answer] No, I do not. I have worked as an investigator for many years of my life, so I have so many real plots in my head that I feel no desire for made-up ones.

[A call from Nikolayev] Why does our decree on the fight against alcoholism amount to just limiting the sale of alcoholic beverages?

[Answer] Excuse me, who is this calling?

[Question] Just a person. Dmitriy Dmitriyevich.

[Answer] You are incorrect. Throughout the country the restrictions on sale are just a consequence of the intensification of the fight against drunkenness and alcoholism, the struggle to create a general atmosphere of intolerance of drunkenness. It is a different matter if some places only limit the sale of alcoholic beverages instead of conducting a broad and multifaceted campaign for a sober way of life.

[Question] But you should understand, certain traditions have become established, even if they are bad ones. You cannot just take them and cut them off all at once...

[Answer] It is not a matter of traditions. You are confusing concepts. It is a matter of a deadly habit. Nonetheless, you are using the words "cut off" wrong. A gradual, but strict limitation of trade is being combined with a general offensive along the entire alcohol front, so to speak.

[Question] One more personal question.

[Answer] Go ahead.

[Question] I have run into terrible behavior by militia employees. What do you think, do we have a neutral body to which I could appeal these actions?

[Answer] But why do you say "neutral"? You can appeal the actions of militia organs to the Ministry of Internal Affairs. You can call on the prosecutor's office; it supervises the actions of organs of internal affairs. If you want, write to me personally and, if you have been treated unfairly, we will do everything possible to restore justice.

[Question] Thank you.

[Question] Viktor Vasilyevich, this is Miron Borisovich Levenkov of Kiev troubling you. I am head engineer at a planning institute. What do you think of the idea that our prosecutors' offices, at all levels, should be more open and give the public extensive information on how they operate and how they straighten things out in their own places, in the prosecutorial system?

[Answer] That is an interesting suggestion. I agree with it. The USSR Prosecutor's Office is doing a great deal to increase openness in its work. This is illustrated, you could note, by this "Direct Line" program.

[Question] Hello, Moscow, Comrade Deputy General Prosecutor? Permit me to introduce myself -- Viktor Filippov, test driver at the KamAZ Plant.

[Answer] Hello, Comrade Filippov. What is it that concerns you?

[Question] The limits on the use of work vehicles. The situation where some are permitted, but others are not. By the nature of my work I have run into the fact that many officials have now found a loophole to get around the limit. They lease cars in neighboring oblasts. Cars from Pskov, Latvia, and Penza are now being operated in the Tatar ASSR. I don't know what levers they use for this, probably exchanging spare parts for vehicles. The drivers are usually "go-betweens."

[Answer] Thank you for reporting this. We will look into it.

[Question] Viktor Vasilyevich, hello! This is former teacher, group II invalid, communist Maya Ivanovna Smirnova.

[Answer] Where do you live?

[Question] In the town of Susanino, Kostroma Oblast.

[Answer] A famous place.

[Question] Two years ago the following incident took place. They bought some straw by means of bribes in Krasnodar Kray. Of course, the participants were mainly rayon-level executives. This year there supposedly was a trial in Kostroma. They say that the trial is over, but the population of the rayon does not know what happened. We would like to know everything accurately; it may be that this is just rumors. But if that is so, they should be refuted.

[Answer] I will call the prosecutor of Kostroma Oblast. And if such a trial did take place, I will have him publish the information in the press.

[Question] That is very necessary, because otherwise all kinds of talk and distortion goes on. We need openness, and still more openness, so that people know the truth and do not follow rumors.

[Question] Good day, Viktor Vasilyevich. A Muscovite is troubling you. My name is Mitsenko. Don't consider my question trivial. For some reason half of the stalls at our Tishinskiy Market are given to private persons. And they are selling handmade anniversary items, made of plastic it is true. I would like you to send a person out to check on this.

[Answer] I wrote it down, Comrade Mitsenko, and we will send someone.

[Question] Stall No 16, make a note...

[Answer] I did. Don't worry, it will be checked.

[Question] Hello, Viktor Vasilyevich. My name is Tatyana Alekseyevna Shirokova, a teacher from Odintsov. I want to ask your advice on this problem. We have a lot of pensioners in our courtyard, and some of them behave in an unethical way toward adolescents. Maybe it's a difference of interests? They scold the children, and insult them. Sometimes I have even had to step in on behalf of the adolescents.

[Answer] Tatyana Alekseyevna, did you try calling on the inspectorate for the affairs of minors?

[Question] The inspectorate? But it works on reindoctrination of children...

[Answer] That is not all. These cases should be brought to the attention of the Komsomol and the community.

[Question] Viktor Vasilyevich, Komarov here, district inspector in Moscow.

[Answer] I am listening.

[Question] I am calling about Article 209 on the responsibility of parasites. The point is that I and the other district inspectors are now left without a weapon against parasitism.

[Answer] I understand. You have to wait 4 months, right?

[Question] No, the point is that the article is written this way: following a different, antisocial way of life...

[Answer] And different is not defined...

[Question] If a person does not earn any money at all and does not want to work, it is completely impossible to bring him in under this article.

[Answer] I want to say that we worked on this problem together with other interested ministries during 1985. I think that appropriate legal enactments to step up the struggle against parasitic elements will be adopted in the near future.

[Question] Viktor Vasilyevich! This is Nikolay Valentinovich Smirnov.

[Answer] Good day.

[Question] I welcome the fact that KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA is conducting these meetings, and I want to note that my colleagues -- I am a radio engineer -- completely support the policy of the party and government in the fight against negative phenomena. In this sense, what will happen with nepotism and protectionism?

[Answer] I would like to tell you one thing: where such facts are found, they are being stopped and will be stopped abruptly. You only have to report them.

[Question] We need openness.

[Answer] You're right. We need broad openness, so that others know, so that others will not repeat the mistakes.

[Question] Hello, KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA? Andrey Popov troubling you.

[Answer] I am listening, Andrey.

[Question] Viktor Vasilyevich, I am a member of a Komsomol operational detachment. During our duty hours at hotels we often run into black marketeers, and we don't know what measures can be applied to them. They say that before 1979 there was an ukase that envisioned responsibility for buying things from foreigners and then reselling them. But now there isn't one. In fact we find ourselves powerless.

[Answer] I will have to tell my comrades from the Ministry of Internal Affairs to intensify their guard at these places.

[Question] And on the legislative level?

[Answer] It is true that in 1970 the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet adopted an ukase on responsibility for buying various objects, chiefly currency, in small quantities from foreigners. Because new legal enactments on responsibility for illegal currency transactions were published in 1976, not 1979, the former ukase lost its effect. At the present time the purchase and resale of things for the purpose of profit, including buying from foreigners, is considered speculation and entails administrative or criminal responsibility depending on the specific circumstances.

Therefore I cannot agree with you that we are powerless in the fight against this evil.

[Question] Good day, Viktor Vasilyevich. This is Yelena Potapova, wife of a military serviceman in Moscow, troubling you. We do not have our own housing at the present time. We have to turn to Bannyi Alley. Do you know that place?

[Answer] I've heard quite a bit about it...

[Question] The prices at the "market" there are outrageous -- 150-200 rubles a month for an apartment. On top of that the middlemen take some. Couldn't this situation be brought under control and an appropriate service set up?

[Answer] I want to tell you, Yelena, that the situation will change now. Housing rental will no longer be uncontrolled. Records are being set up of people who rent housing, strict checks are being established on their compliance with legal requirements, and the maximum payments are being set. The service that you mention, Yelena, will soon appear and you will pay strictly at the state rate. As for the middlemen at Bannyi, we will look into that too.

[Question] Viktor Vasilyevich, hello! Mikhail Velichkin, student in the law faculty at Moscow State University, is troubling you. What do you think, will our laws undergo any changes in connection with the restructuring of the economy and the acceleration of scientific-technical progress?

[Answer] The question is now being raised of putting compliance with the law in economic relations on an entirely different, higher level. The thing is that for a number of years, and I mean recent years, these matters were not a matter under consideration at all. Practice has now changed. We are checking the ministries, studying the situation with legality in economic relations, identifying violations of the law, and deciding the question of the responsibility of the various managers appropriately.

In connection with development of the questions posed by M. S. Gorbachev at the 27th party congress on intensifying prosecutorial supervision we are now working out additional measures which would step up both the role of prosecutorial supervision and the responsibility of managers for compliance with the law in economic relations.

[Question] This is Vadim Safronov talking to you. The press has been running articles on the need to combat non-labor incomes for a long time. But when will the decrees be adopted?

[Answer] As far as I know the documents are ready and will be published in the near future.

[Editorial comment] A few days after the "Direct Line" program was conducted the documents on measures to step up the fight against non-labor incomes were published.

V. V. Naydenov told us yesterday, "What would I like to say above all? The decree of the CPSU Central Committee, the decree of the USSR Council of Ministers, and the Ukase of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet generalize and take into account the demands of Soviet citizens, who insist that decisive

measures be taken to eliminate non-labor income. There will now be much stricter responsibility for stealing socialist property, speculation and bribery, and illegal use of transportation for personal gain. A system of declarations and other forms of monitoring the legality of citizens' income is being instituted. Incidentally, during the readers debate these suggestions were expressed in the pages of 'KOMSOMOLKA.' It is also important that both administrative and economic measures are envisioned.

"I think that those who asked about measures on 'Direct Line' as well as all readers who value the reputation of honest labor have received a convincing answer. Public opinion has taken on the force of law."

11176

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SOCIAL ISSUES

ECONOMIC LAW CONCEPTS PRESENTED IN NEW TEXTBOOK

Moscow KHOZYAYSTVO I PRAVO in Russian No 6, Jun 86 (signed to press 2 Jun 86)
pp 89-90

[Review by A. Lebed, deputy chairman of USSR Gosstat, G. Krayukhin, doctor of economic sciences and professor, and Yu. Aristakov, candidate of juridical sciences and docent, of book "Sovetskoye khozyaystvennoye pravo. Uchebnik dlya studentov yuridicheskikh institutov i fakultetov vuzov" (Soviet Economic Law. Textbook for Students of Juridical Institutes and Faculties of VUZes), under the general editorship of Professor I. G. Pobirchenko, doctor of juridical sciences, Kiev, "Vishcha shkola", 1985, 334 pages]

[Text] The Political Report of the CPSU Central Committee to the 27th party congress underlined the need to step up work on strengthening legal order in all spheres of the life of society and improve the quality of Soviet laws, which are expected "to even more vigorously help introduce economic methods of management, effectively monitor the measure of labor and consumption, and implement the principles of social justice." Therefore, the attention of lawyers, economists, and economic managers should be directed to those means and opportunities which are expected to help meet these challenges. In the sphere of economic law the task of establishing an appropriate organizational-legal mechanism for realizing the changes that are being made and, ultimately, neutralizing or even breaking the stereotypes that oppose the changes is taking on special urgency. Effective use and further development of economic law is becoming crucial.

Lawyers working in the national economy are expected to work constantly to promote observation of socialist legality in all spheres of the economy. Their work cannot be successful without thorough and quality professional training.

The publication of this new textbook on economic law, prepared by prominent Soviet scholars in the department of economic law at the juridical faculty of Kiev University, must be viewed as a happy event in the life of Soviet juridical science.

When evaluating the significance of the textbook under review, we should not overlook the fact that several textbooks on economic law have already been published since economic law began to be taught at juridical and economics VUZes. In these textbooks the logic of presentation of the material has been

characterized by a desire to cover the questions of the theory of economic law, including disputed aspects, as fully as possible, and to reveal and substantiate the need to review the established ideas about legal regulation of economic activity.

The textbook has 14 chapters. The system of presentation in them is oriented to the approved syllabus with attention focused on the institutions of the general part of economic law. Reviewing the legal forms and methods of managing the socialist economy, the authors correctly stress that economic law relations do not fit within the traditional framework of civil and administrative law and that management of the socialist economy should not be divorced from direct economic practice in legal regulation. This approach responds to the idea that the socialist state fulfills not only superstructural, but also base functions. This understanding of the economic role of the socialist state has won a fairly sound and solid place in economic and legal science. Reviewing economic relations and questions of their legal regulation, the authors point out the need to consider both the uniformity and the differences in these relations when analyzing them. Logically this makes it possible to then move on to presentation of the types and groups of relations within the limits of their inherent uniformity in the system of legal regulation.

The chapter devoted to the legal status of economic organs deserves serious attention. This comparatively short chapter contains very full and methodologically precise material on the concept and types of economic organs, the legal status of enterprises and production associations, administrations of economic associations, and economic ministries (departments), and finally, the legal organization of economic systems.

Chapter 5 devoted to the legal rules governing the property of economic organs is equally valuable. Chapter 6 is devoted to legal regulation of national economic planning and, stressing the importance of planning as the key element of the economic mechanism of the socialist system of economic activity, discloses the legal forms of planning work in the national economy, the system of plans, the legal status and functions of planning organs, and the procedures for amending and canceling planning enactments. This same chapter also shows that planning differs by nature from conventional administrative management and is an economic-legal activity in which planning-organizational and property elements are combined. This is what provides the basis to recognize it as an independent object of legal regulation going beyond the framework of civil and administrative law. The need to take account in economic activity of the differences between the general principles of planning law and the planning norms that regulate relations in particular economic sectors (delivery, capital construction, and others) is correctly noted. It does seem that this chapter would benefit if it showed the increased significance of social aspects in planning the production-economic activity of enterprises and associations and of the contract in supporting the tasks of combining sectorial and territorial planning and guarantees of compliance with the law in planning.

The next, seventh chapter is devoted to legal regulation of cost accounting. It is organized on the "classical" scheme, covering the concept, features, and organizational-legal forms of cost accounting and legal regulation of cost accounting at enterprises, production associations in industry, and economic systems. The textbook develops this scheme further by including a section on legal

regulation of cost accounting at production associations and in other, nonproduction sectors of the national economy.

The succession and internal coordination of economic law norms and institutions is the fundamental principle adopted in structuring the system of economic law as an independent branch. At the same time this makes it possible to outline two groups of norms and institutions. The first consists of those that have general significance for the entire national economy and constitute the content of the general part of the course. Unlike them, the second group of norms and institutions, which regulate the relations that take shape in particular sectors of the economy and types of economic activity, constitutes the special part of the course. There is no doubt that this is a correct form of organization, based on the unity of our entire legal system, within which certain principles can be general for a number of sectors and specific to a given sector.

While the authors oriented the presentation of the textbook to the institutions of the general part of the course of economic law, at the same time they included in it chapters devoted to questions of the legal regulation of relations in the development of science and technology (Chapter 8), the legal fundamentals of state standardization and management of output quality (Chapter 10), legal regulation of prices (Chapter 12), and finally, legal regulation of the credit and accounts of economic organs (Chapter 13).

This design of the system of presentation is somewhat questionable, but this does not deprive these chapters of logical harmony and methodological precision.

Chapters 10 and 11 are devoted to the economic contract and the system of economic contracts, one of the cornerstones of economic law. An unquestionable strong point of these chapters is their exhaustive coverage of the questions treated with very clear presentation.

Accountability in economic law -- the most complex problem of cost accounting management -- is the subject of Chapter 14. This chapter reviews the concept of economic law accountability, its specific forms and types, and its functions and foundations.

Another unquestionable merit of the textbook we should mention is the normative enactments and documents presented in its appendix -- the Statute on Procedures for Making and Reviewing Claims, the Rules for Review of Economic Disputes by State Arbitration, a fairly large list of normative enactments and documents, and a list of recommended literature on economic law subjects. The department of economic law at Kiev University devotes considerable attention to the questions of preparing lawyers in the conditions of their future practical activity in the national economy. The search for active forms of specialist training by the department is expressed in the outfitting of the room for practical classes and business games in economic law.

The textbook under review reflects useful efforts to improve the educational process in training Soviet specialists, among them lawyers, for their complex and honorable work in the national economy.

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11176

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SOCIAL ISSUES

APPRENTICESHIPS, LEGAL ACCOUNTABILITY PROPOSED FOR PHYSICIANS

Baku BAKINSKIY RABOCHIY in Russian 29 Jun 86 p 2

[Article by T. Kasumov, minister of public health, Azerbaijan SSR:
"Profession - Physician : Higher Institution--Discussing the Reconstruction Plan"]

[Text] Profession - physician. It is a very unusual profession. Doctor Chekhov said the same thing, if you remember, calling the work of a physician, the preserver of life, a heroic feat. Our health and the most important resource of the Soviet Union, our lives, depend on the professional and, of course, ethical qualities of the physician, or rather on a mixture of these. In this respect, there are few who have sufficient knowledge and ability to be persistent and tolerant, strong and intelligent. In addition to these qualities one absolutely must possess the talent of humaneness, the ability to be sensitive, sympathetic, kind, merciful, sincere, and be capable of love, understanding and shared suffering. Now that really is a heroic feat!

But are young people who want to become physicians ready for such heroic efforts? If high-school graduates or medical students are asked this question, there is hardly one among them who would answer in the negative.

But the years of study have flown past. The Hippocratic oath has already been taken The day of assignment has come. At this point, unfortunately, we continually come up against facts which directly contradict the words about being ready to serve the people, work wherever needed and in the field of expertise where physicians are in the shortest supply, even if it is not considered prestigious. Of course, there are not many graduates like this. But they do exist, they are tenacious. They make use of every means at their disposal, use their connections, concoct health certificates, sometimes making false statements about themselves and their relatives, just to enable them to remain in the city and work in a prestigious field of expertise, even if it does not interest them. And no matter how we struggle against them, they nevertheless gain their end.

Perhaps it is precisely those who are incapable of the physician's heroic feats, who later develop into those for whom the profession of physician is only a way to become rich, taking advantage of other people's suffering? Or those unsympathetic, callous, wretched medical students who are incapable of recognizing their brother or friend in patients and turn our sacred mission

into a trade?!

It is hard to believe, but both of these exist in our midst. I can give more than one example of how a physician has been taken to court for bribery or extortion, and imprisoned, or how another has been severely punished for inattention and an unsympathetic attitude toward his patient.

Where have we omitted something? Where have we fallen short? Why, among the ranks of Soviet physicians, the absolute majority of whom are honest people devoted to the interests of the nation and their humanistic profession, are there those whose behavior disgraces our good name? Apparently, there is no single answer to these questions. Of course, a moment of great significance is when students are selected for medical vuzes. Taking advantage of the fact that at present in our country a discussion is taking place of the CPSU Central Committee project, "The Main Trends in the Reorganization of Higher and Middle Specialized Education in the Country," I will share my ideas.

There is no doubt that it is high time for reorganization in this matter. At present, we are training a great many specialists, and it is time to give serious thought to the principles of selection and the quality of training. We, the organizers of public health, are very interested in the goals set forth in the project relating to a radical improvement in medical education. Passionate support is particularly being given to the provision that students for medical vuzes should be recruited primarily from among those who have worked as junior or mid-level medical personnel for no less than two years.

In recent years, we have repeatedly come forward with such proposals. In fact, only a person who has had the experience of working as a junior or mid-level medical employee can convince someone of his desire to become a physician or of his readiness for this type of work. If you have successfully endured this experience, if you have gained a feel for this profession, if the difficulties and sleepless nights have not eroded your desire, if bearing the responsibility for another's life has not scared you, if you feel love for your patient and an indomitable desire to help him, and if the patient himself senses all of this, you will become a good physician, you will love your patients and you will succeed in bearing aloft the name of the Soviet physician.

It is strikingly evident that young people should be given the opportunity to test their desire to become a physician, and this opportunity, in my opinion, should be realized.

Please do not think that I am making an appeal for the establishment of some absolute restriction or other. Not at all. Of course, what I have proposed cannot always be carried out, if for instance we are talking about a young person from the countryside, where there is no opportunity to work as an orderly, let's say. Or if we are considering a high-school graduate who has long dreamed of medicine, is interested in it, intends to become a medical employee, and in actual fact proves it. Acceptable criteria for evaluating his desire can be developed. Of course no one is going to object to a person like this, let him participate in the competition, prove his right to enter a

medical vuz and study there to his heart's content, as the saying goes.

The measure I propose, if of course it can be carried out in every specific case, will allow many of those who have been honestly mistaken about their desires to change their minds in time and make a decision which is more suitable for them. Before entering an institute out of considerations of prestige, or simply to place a university diploma in their pockets, regardless of the subject, or to use one's profession to serve one's own corrupt ends, a reliable barrier must be overcome: hardly any of them will want or be able to survive the trying experience of being a junior or mid-level medical employee.

Incidentally, in this way we will be able to solve another problem which is of great importance to public health, the severe shortage of male and female orderlies. The junior or mid-level medical employee is a student and later a physician; this is the route, all the stages of which are very, very important and must be completed by the absolute majority of high-school graduates.

It is high time a solution was found to the problem of taking legal action against graduates who consciously, without any scruples, stubbornly refuse to fulfill their civic and professional duty by not moving to the place of their assignment and refusing to work in that field of medicine where public health has the greatest need.

Recently in the ministry of public health, we reviewed yet another complaint from one physician who without the least justification did not want to move to a rural region. As if this were not enough, this physician had not fulfilled his duty and for three years had not worked anywhere and now, after expiration of the term of his assignment, was looking for a loophole in the statutes in effect. Considering himself no longer a young specialist and free from the obligation to work for the stipulated time at the place he was initially assigned, he asked for a job in Baku. Of course, in cases like this we make no exceptions.

In our country we have two categories of people who, when assuming the fulfillment of their professional obligations, take an oath. These are the military and physicians. Only one thing distinguishes them: military personnel are answerable to the law for violating their oath and physicians are essentially answerable to no one. I consider this to be unjust.

One should be legally responsible for violating the Physician's Oath of the Soviet Union, and this should be set forth in an appropriate law. Those who break their oath should be made to answer to the fullest extent and before the Law. I think that the possibility of giving ministries the right to deprive such persons of their physician's diploma should be reviewed.

To work where it is necessary and do what is in the interests of the health of the workers are the basic tenets in the ethics and morals of physicians, and we should strictly abide by them.

Only in this way will we be able to justify the lofty name of the Soviet physician.

SOCIAL ISSUES

MEASURES AGAINST UNEARNED INCOME URGED IN KaSSR

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 1 Jul 86 p 1

[Unattributed article: "A Barrier to Unearned Income"]

[Text] Responses received by KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA to the CPSU Central Committee decree "On Measures to Intensify the Struggle Against Unearned Income" reflect the full support and approval of this important document by the republic's laborers. At the same time, as can be seen from letters written by Tselinogradselmash Plant turner Yu. Sedykh, Ulyanovskiy Sovkhoz worker D. Katunina and others, approval of planned measures alone is not enough. The authors of these letters feel that for the struggle against unearned income to be successful, it must become a whole people's movement, all labor collectives and all citizens must be raised to the fight against this evil, and a decisive effort must be made to eliminate the causes and conditions generating misappropriation, speculation, bribery and other forms of money-grubbing. After all, certain enterprise workers still frequently use state-owned machinery, construction materials, fuels and raw materials for personal gain, in the public eye, without any effort to hide what they are doing. And cases of extortion, appropriation of earnings, deceit of citizens and protectionism are condoned in the trade system, in services and in educational institutions. There are still many officials who abuse their official position in their aspiration for enrichment. And we still have families in which "knowing how to live"--that is, knowing how to extract income by any means--is held in esteem.

Viewing the eradication of these abnormal phenomena alien to the nature of socialism as an important political, socioeconomic and educational task, the CPSU Central Committee proposed that party and soviet organs, trade unions and the Komsomol develop and implement specific measures to intensify the struggle against unearned income; that this work be carried on actively, without compromise, with the goal of achieving unfailing observance of the laws and requirements of socialist justice in all sectors of the national economy and in all spheres of activity, and that all channels and loopholes of illegal enrichment be firmly shut.

The party devotes priority significance in this matter to eliminating the conditions that generate shortages of goods and services, which are especially often capitalized upon by dishonest people for personal gain. We need to

do more than make fuller use of local possibilities and resources to increase production of goods and to expand services--ones which are really needed by the people moreover; we also need to efficiently study the causes of shortages and take efficient steps to eliminate them. In this regard one cannot help recalling the story about piston rings for Moskvich-412 automobiles told in KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA on 30 April. The demand for them is not being satisfied by essentially all of the specialized stores of the republic's large cities, which is why speculation persists. The plant workers could make enough of these articles if the trade organizations were to place orders for them. But no one seems to be concerned locally, including in Chimkent, Semipalatinsk and Guryev. The fact that the newspaper has still not received any response from the named cities to its article can also be explained apparently by understatement of the problem's importance.

Maintaining records on material valuables and monitoring expenditure of raw materials and materials and protecting socialist property play a special role in the struggle against unearned income. Model order at the enterprise is the best guarantee that not a single nail would be lost, that the thief would be unable to utilize any kind of loophole for his own enrichment. But many enterprises of meat and dairy, food and light industry have still not put their house in order. Some of them do not even want to put their fencing in order or impose stiffer control on access to certain areas. The Guryev Meat Processing Combine has acquired woeful notoriety in this respect. Up to half of the combine's workers who pass through the check point in the morning leave the combine in the evening through holes in the fences. And of course, they leave with their bags full.

About the same situation has evolved at the Chimkent Oil and Lard Combine, where 300 persons were detained last year attempting to steal the combine's products. But who knows how many sneaks slipped by the guards when the combine does not even have a continuous fence around it?

Certain department directors frequently give loud speeches on protecting the people's property. They send out circulars describing all kinds of measures having the goal of improving protection, but they do little to bring these measures to life. And yet any labor collective could eradicate thievery in production if it desired to do so; all it would need to do is tackle the problem persistently. Interesting experience was accumulated in this respect by the canned milk plant in Pavlodar. Councils for assisting protection of socialist property created here are doing considerable work to prevent misappropriation. Interacting with peoples control groups and with outside security workers, they carry out raids to expose runners and to check the conditions under which valuables are stored in warehouses and shops. Security problems are regularly discussed at meetings of the party bureau and conferences of the plant director. As a result there has been not a single case of thievery in the last 5 years, and the incidence of petty misappropriation has decreased dramatically.

It is the duty of party committees and soviet organs to help the labor collectives utilize more fully their rights and possibilities for curbing unearned income, and to initiate educational work in the collectives directed

at developing a deep respect and readiness for selfless labor for the common good, sensible needs and intolerance of private ownership psychology and money-grubbing in the people. We need to ask more of officials and executives in ensuring preservation of the people's property and eliminating the conditions leading to mismanagement.

Selection and placement of personnel in the trade system, in public food services and in all spheres of service require serious improvement. When a worker is up for promotion to an executive position, special attention must be turned to his political and work qualities and to his moral purity. After all, unworthy people who fail in one place are still frequently transferred to another position and shielded from punishment. It is noted in the CPSU Central Committee decree that persons convicted of abusing their official position cannot occupy executive posts in the future.

The entire force of law and public opinion must be utilized in the struggle against persons living on unearned income. It is important that not a single case involving extraction of unearned income be left unattended, and that those who favor living on unearned income be aware of the inevitability of punishment. This would require intensifying control over the income of citizens and raising personal liability for crimes of profit.

The ukase of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet "On Intensifying the Struggle Against Unearned Income" goes into effect today. Workers of legal organs and all who are involved in legal propaganda must explain to the people the content of the ukase and take pains to see that its measures would be implemented immediately in the interests of our society and the state.

At the same time the struggle against private ownership psychology and money-grubbing would be unimaginable without intensifying ideological and political work among the masses. This work must have the result of enforcing the understanding in the Soviet people that eradicating this evil is the concern of everyone, that no one has the right to refuse to join the fight against it.

11004

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SOCIAL ISSUES

FAULTY MANAGEMENT POLICIES BESET SOCIAL, ECONOMIC ORGANIZATIONS

Ashkhabad KOMSOMOLETS TURKMENISTANA in Russian 9 Aug 86 p 2

[Article by M. Salamatov under the rubric "View of a Problem": "Relieved of Position..."]

[Text] A stringent provision: a labor contract may be abrogated by the administration of an enterprise or establishment if "...it is determined that a blue- or white-collar worker is incompatible with the position occupied or the job performed...." This is an excerpt from Article 33, Paragraph 2, of the Labor Law Code of the Turkmen SSR.

Personnel workers admit, however, that the provision is not frequently applied. A worker is dismissed only when it is not possible to offer him another position for which he is qualified. There is also another, purely psychological, reason why things do not reach this point: an individual who is aware of the fact that he lacks the skills or competence for the job he is performing and that others know this and can see it, prefers to leave on his own, of his own volition, so to speak.

Individuals dismissed for incompatibility, "of their own volition," or transferred to a different job" react in different ways, however. The factors leading to the unhappy (or perhaps, happy), final parting with a worker are equally diverse.

And now, something about a matter which was until recently regarded as sensitive and not to be openly discussed but which has now been elevated to the level of extremely urgent matters. A fairly large group of administrators of various ranks relieved of their positions from time to time for "incompatibility" should also be included among the "professionally unsuited." They are spared a more difficult blow at their self-esteem once again by the hackneyed phrases: "of his own volition," "to be transferred to a different job, and so forth.

They say that "universal" managers were formerly in vogue: today one would be supervising in one branch; tomorrow he would be transferred to bolster another; and the next day he would turn up in a third area. There were objective reasons for such shiftings, of course: highly educated, experienced and energetic cadres were in short supply. But that was dozens of years ago, ages ago....

The inertia of such "reinforcements" is still felt today, however. To think that pies were baked by cobblers and shoes were made by pastry-cooks! Could a person with an agronomist's degree run a nuclear power plant, for instance, or a plant producing automatic lines? Unthinkable? Then where did they get the idea that people whose education and practical experience were entirely different could occupy management positions and consequently, affect the situation, in that very field of services, trade, food and other "non-heavy" industry? Is this not one of the causes of the chronic instability and stagnation which have developed in a number of sectors of the republic's economy in recent decades?

A knowledge of basic economics and the management system combined with organizational abilities makes it possible for a time to create the appearance that things are well. The new manager has an outsider's view of the enterprise's defects. He has not experienced them and is not familiar with their "primordial substance." He did not develop professionally in that milieu, did not come out of it, out of that branch, and has not examined the subtle details of every facet, every trifle. And there are thousands of these trifles, of course.

And so, we have superficial competence and all-embracing competence. The latter is acquired only when the individual develops "from within," beginning at the bottom levels of his chosen profession. In his speech at a conference in Kharkov, General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee M.S. Gorbachev had the following to say on the matter: "I shall say frankly that our opinion, the opinion of the Politburo, is that those who are steeped in concepts of dependency, who are constantly sniveling that this is not enough, that is not enough, that they need something else, that the builders and everyone else are to blame, that objective factors are preventing them from performing better--those people need to give way to new cadres who understand the demands of the times and are prepared to accept the enormous responsibility."

Responsibility implies first of all all-embracing competence. The readjustment will be mastered by the knowledgeable.

Public-political organizations, including the Komsomol, and the various sectors of the work the aggregate of which we call the ideological front have their own, special "professional competence" standard. Compatibility with the position held in these areas means meeting a large number of criteria set for the character of workers in ideological establishments. After all, they are the plenipotentiaries of the party, as it were, the communicators of its ideas, the agents of its authority.

But what is really the case at times? What sort of readjustment can be expected, let us say, from an individual who is basically not suited for his position with respect to either his ideological and political perspective or his moral qualities and his will?

It is a well-known fact that important positions go unfilled for months in rayon and city Komsomol committees. This also is a sort of indicator. An indicator of complete inability to find and develop cadres locally--in the primary organizations in this case. It is highly unlikely that worthy candidates cannot be found among the many thousands of Komsomol members in this or that rayon. Even

if all the information in their questionnaires is not "faultless" and "ideal," the main thing is that the people are prepared to vouch for their unofficial leaders (though they be sharp-tongued, blunt in expressing their opinions and quick to ire--these are the kind we need today!). This is the best reference. Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev expressed precisely this idea about people's confidence in candidates for management positions during one of his meetings with the residents of Maritime Kray.

With respect to the readjustment, it must be noted that its purport has been perceived in an extremely peculiar way in a number of the republic's Komsomol committees. The readjustment involves a great deal of work and consequently, requires more perseverance and diligence. And some rayon committees are already making it their rule to create "all-hands-on-deck" situations, to arrive at work long before it actually begins and stay there until late in the evening. And of course meetings "on the need to reduce... the number of meetings and conferences" are being held all the time.

The times do not require that we work long hours of "overtime," zealously, from daylight to dark, in the office. They demand a fundamental alteration of work style. "It must be imbued with respect for the people, for their opinion, with real, unfeigned closeness to them. We must actually go to the people, meet with and listen to them, inform them. And the more difficult it is, the more often we need to meet with them, be with them when this or that problem is being resolved."

In his speech at a conference of the party aktiv in Khabarovsk Kray, the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee compared the restructuring process to a revolution. The similarity is obvious. And a revolution, history has shown, has always erected barriers of principle between real revolution-mindedness and pseudorevolutionary speculation. Sooner or later, it has always revealed the true makeup, the character and intentions of the individual joining in the breakup of the old and the establishment of the new.

11499

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SOCIAL ISSUES

MUSICAL-INSTRUMENT SMUGGLING RING BLASTED IN PRESS

Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 2 Aug 86 p 3, 4

[Article by Stanislav Kosterin: "False Label"]

[Text] From outward appearances, there didn't seem to be anything wrong in the relationship between this pair — the Soviet citizen S. G. Dyachenko, an instructor at the Moscow Conservatory, and the USA citizen Peter Thomas D'Oriya, a translator for the Progress Publishing House. Cars were repaired at one of their places. Both were interested in musical instruments. One in violins, as a professional, and the other, as an amateur, in folk instruments such as domras and balalaikas. But there was something else in their frequent meetings that became known...

The Sheremetevo International Airport, February 8, 1986. Several times, customs officer A. V. Kuleshov asked the USA-bound passenger D'Oriya: "Does the violin you are carrying correspond to the Storioni violin indicated on your customs declaration?" Each time D'Oriya answered in the affirmative. An expert was called in. The instrument turned out to be a violin by the famous Italian master Gagliano. The Lorenzo Storioni label was a fake. It was torn out of a catalog and glued over the real one. In the American's wallet there was one more violin label "Guarneri del Gesù, 1698." Was this the start of the next swindle?

Arrested for attempting an illegal export of a rare musical instrument, D'Oriya admitted that the violin belonged to Soviet citizen S. G. Dyachenko, and was intended to be sold abroad.

D'Oriya also said that for a certain percentage, he has twice helped S. G. Dyachenko "to sell" an old musical instrument of great cultural value. Back in 1984, through earlier arrangements with Dyachenko, while returning from a visit with his parents in the USA, he brought a factory-made violin into the USSR. He then glued a Santa Serafin label that he got from Dyachenko onto that instrument. The instrument indicated on the customs declaration passed the customs inspection without any trouble. On his next trip to the USA, D'Oriya had among his baggage a genuine Santa Serafin violin which had been given to him by Dyachenko. In the States, through the mediation of the Wurlitzer company, it was sold for 40 thousand dollars.

This was the same mode of operation the accomplices intended to undertake on February 8 of this year. However, Dyachenko was not able to get the Storioni violin, ostensibly brought to our country by D'Oriya, by the designated date, so he made a fake label for the Gagliano violin that he did have but which was no less valuable. This time the theft was averted.

Sergey Grigoryevich Dyachenko's name is well known. He grew up in a musical family in Lvov and graduated with distinction from the Moscow Conservatory. His talent as a violin player was noted at a Paganini competition in Genoa. Almost immediately after the completion of his graduate studies he was offered an instructorship at the Institute imeni Gnesin in Moscow. He continued his successes and graduated from the correspondence conductorship division of the Leningrad Conservatory. He then became director of the student orchestra. He won first prize and a laureate's title at an international competition in Vienna in 1979. His alma mater, the Moscow Conservatory, offered him an instructorship and appointed him director of an orchestra composed of foreign students studying in the USSR. Dyachenko could have accomplished much had he not followed a second, secret path that led to illegal, criminal profit.

There had been talk in the musical community and among conservatory students that the customs offices did not have enough experienced experts who might be able to determine the genuine maker of any particular old instrument. Indeed, it is difficult to distinguish a genuine model from an imitation since this requires considerable professional experience and special knowledge. Dyachenko had this experience and knowledge. Moreover, he was able to restore rare violins to a "marketable" condition. So, why not take the risk?

Musical instruments are highly valued in the foreign antique markets, and their sale prices can be determined from catalogs. In our country, on the other hand, there are private collections whose owners are poorly informed about what they have. Buy the instruments here, ship them across, and resell them. This was the combination that Dyachenko thought up. The "shipping them across" and the "reselling" were of course the most difficult items. And what is more, to get help from abroad.

Accomplices and consultants were found. These were certain students in the orchestra led by Dyachenko. Fake labels were made up for instruments imported into the USSR. Foreign addresses in England and the USA were given by a Leningrad acquaintance Mikhail Meylakh who is currently in prison.

Meylakh gave Dyachenko the London address of the British subject D. Newson. In 1983, "courier" foreign students transmitted to Newson a Santa Serafin violin from Dyachenko. Newson sold it for 13 thousand USA dollars. The link with Newson was broken off after Meylakh's arrest. Now Dyachenko himself arranges the contacts. The Muscovite M. N. Rappoport offers the commercial services of his own daughter, M. M. Gendel, who lives in New York for the purpose of receiving and reselling the violins.

But how is the money to be delivered to Dyachenko? To assist in this endeavor comes an entire underground bureau of "good offices" in which every link takes it out. Let's say Gendel sells a rare Hahn violin for 10 thousand dollars. He leaves himself 3,700. Then, the dollars are transferred to Israel to Isaac (Jacob) Krikheli in the city of Natanya. By some unknown path a coded message goes from there to our Sukhumi to a relative of Krikheli, Meyer Mikhelashvili. Meyer Semenovitch, who has a Moscow residence permit, immediately gets ready to go the capital. Dyachenko is given weighty packs of Soviet money. In all, he gives Dyachenko over 160 thousand rubles. Meyer Semenovitch has resorted to the postal facilities with extreme rarity, only when he was ill. Because of illness, incidentally, he did not appear at the trial. The origin of the large sums of money in Mikhelashvili's possession has yet to be determined. The investigation has proceeded only along the principal channel. Who knows how many more tributaries there are to this case?

From the bill of the indictment (for criminal case No. 124): In the commission of the enumerated contraband operations during 1983 — 1986, the defendants illegally exported abroad from the USSR the following: Dyachenko — five antique violins and one bow, valued at 98,500 rubles. Moreover, D'Oriya was an accomplice in the contraband transfer abroad of one of these violins and bow, valued at 40,500 rubles. In addition, Dyachenko and D'Oriya attempted to smuggle across the USSR state border an antique violin valued at 20,000 rubles.

As a result of this criminal activity, Dyachenko was enriched by a sum of 185,620 rubles, and D'Oriya got 8,000 dollars.

In the course of the investigation 45,000 rubles were confiscated from the defendant Dyachenko, and the defendant D'Oriya voluntarily gave up 13,500 USA dollars..."

These lines were read out by People's Judge Nina Ivanovna Markina at the process which began at the Moscow City Court last Tuesday, July 29. During those minutes I looked at the impassive, pale face of Dyachenko and wondered: Did he know and realize the path he had embarked upon? Violins made by the famous masters Santa Serafin, Hahn, Testore, Gagliano, and a violoncello by Guarneri... A performer's dream! By some unknown means they had come into the hands of private collectors in our country some time in the past. But it is known that they were paid for by the toil, and later by the blood of Russian serfs and proletariat, and became national property of the country and part of its cultural riches.

Dyachenko knew what he was doing, he knew that he was violating the USSR Law "On the Preservation and Use of Historical and Cultural Relics" which forbids their export abroad. He recognized and was aware of the fact that he was none other than a criminal and swindler, but dressed in a different cloak.

"In explaining his motives for undertaking, with my participation, the illegal export of musical instruments from the USSR," testified his accomplice D'Oriya, "Dyachenko said he is doing this to preserve antique instruments of the old masters for world culture because, in his opinion, the USSR doesn't have musical craftsman of sufficiently global quality who might be able to repair antique violins well, so that valuable musical instruments in the USSR are being lost."

The fact that this is a lie is obvious. Then why should he be paid for his "moral suffering" by tens of thousands from the Sukhumi resident Mikhelashvili? In the course of the court examination, Dyachenko came up with another version of his motives. He had hoped, he says, to use the money received from the resale to form a quartet of rare musical instruments which would subsequently be donated to a museum...

Yes, and in the course of the court investigation Dyachenko attempted to put on the airs of a "sufferer." "I signed promissory notes to pay for instruments...We were half-starving..." His wife, Olga Aleksandrovna, interrogated at the court as a witness, repeated: "We didn't even have enough money for a haircut..." Perhaps they didn't have enough for a haircut, but the Dyachenko family "scraped together" nine thousand for an automobile.

Dyachenko "scraped" only where he could. There were tens of thousands in a "stocking" at home, but what could be more disgusting! — Up to the last day he accepted material help from his parents. It was indeed painful to look at his father and mother who were sitting in the courtroom: With sunken cheeks, looking even older, in faded, inexpensive clothing... Their son "made some money," he sent overseas the violin that his father bought for his son with his earned savings. This violin made him famous at the competition in Genoa.

D'Oriya was more frank. Yes, he transacted his business. And it was not only as an accomplice to Dyachenko that he proceeded along this criminal matter. He has his own bouquet of crimes. Among those are illegal currency transactions and speculation, sending abroad folk instruments under the guise of mass-produced and factory models, and many other things.

These people cannot help but find each other. In one of their first meetings, the following dialog took place: "Can you help me get a balalaika?" asked D'Oriya. "I can't get you balalaikas, but there are violins," was the reply.

A common conversation among two comrades. In the course of the preliminary investigation and later in court, they fully admitted being guilty of committing and inflicting upon our state an enormous, and now irreplaceable, material and cultural loss.

In the course of the court examination they tried with all their might to give the impression that they were worthy, orderly, and intelligent people who were even loyal to our country.

Dyachenko obtained a brilliant musical education free of charge. How did he repay the country for this? He sold its property.

Peter Thomas D'Oriya. Graduate of Fordham University, a Russian language major. He knows our language and has an excellent command of it. He could not find work at home in the States. He made ends meet by taking on random jobs. He visited the USSR several times as a tourist and married a Soviet citizen. He got to know her through her relatives who live in the USA. When he married, he gave up his American citizenship.

Our state provided D'Oriya with work. He was hired by the editorial offices of the Progress Publishing House where he translated Soviet periodicals into foreign languages. Translations at the publishing house, and extra earnings on the side... "I netted 1,200 rubles a month," he said at the court. The state gave me three apartments in Moscow. Luxurious furnishings, radio, and television. In my wife's name and her kin I acquired a Zhiguli, a Volga, and Mercedes automobile..."

"I found my destiny here and my second homeland," these are his words. Now, D'Oriya has decided his own fate.

The court session proceeds, the floor is given to the accused, witnesses are called... I probably am not the only one in whom bitter thoughts come to mind. How could such a crime be possible, where did we go amiss, where did we fall short, and where did we look the other way? The shrewd and crafty minds of Dyachenko and D'Oriya clearly defined and took advantage of errors and negligence on the part of individual Soviet workers in the performance of their duties and execution of the law as well as their greed and placidity. Here was the beginning of the channel along which instruments of high artistic value flowed to foreign markets.

This process has posed many perplexing questions which must be examined. Why, for example, was there no accounting of musical instruments made by the old masters that were in private hands? Why were those instruments freely and unrestrainedly shifted from one owner to another, exchanged, sold, and at times, disappeared into the unknown? The USSR Law "On the Preservation and Use of Historical and Cultural Relics" was adopted in 1976. The cultural officials were entrusted with the obligation of enforcing that law.

Tell me, how much time is necessary to formulate instructions based on that law that explain what is a mobile relic, that would establish the manner of accounting and by such documentation inform citizens possessing such relics how they should be preserved and under what conditions they can be given away? A month? A year? Nothing of the sort. Such a document has been undergoing agonizing birth pangs for almost ten years (!) within the depths of the USSR Ministry of Culture.

It was only on February 12, 1986 (we note that this was four days after D'Oriya's detention at the Sheremetevo airport) that the USSR Ministry of Culture finally approved the document "Instructions for the Registration and Preservation of Mobile Historical and Cultural Relics in the Personal Possession of Citizens." The size of that document is very modest. Who knows the scope of the loss inflicted by unintentional office red tape? Who will guarantee that only Dyachenko and D'Oriya took advantage of a ten-year flaw?

Is this the way that personnel at the Ministry of Culture should be concerned about the preservation of cultural and historic relics?

We have an organization called the State Collection of Unique Musical Instruments of the USSR Ministry of Culture. It is headed by V. M. Kulikov. It is in fact that organization which is supposed to supervise the registration of instruments in the hands of private collectors. The supervisor of the Collection does not overlook any opportunity to talk about how much is being done to preserve rare instruments, and to take life easily. But when it comes to taking care of the instruments, the State Collection is clearly behind the energetic S. G. Dyachenko who also is better informed about their location.

Our liberal attitude toward those who transgress the law becomes an unwitting accomplice to crime. We shy away from expressing our feelings about this. In this way, vigilance is dissipated.

Peter Thomas D'Oriya passed for dear Pete at the Progress Publishing House. A foreign citizen. But on the same work level. So what if he brings rags and equipment from his voyages to the USA, bargains and haggles, and so what if he takes out folk musical instruments?

"Well then, is your balalaika-selling firm still in business,?" one of the Progress Publishing House workers jokes patronizingly.

The Publishing House associates often dropped in to visit Peter-Pete and delighted in his video films of dubious content. D'Oriya not only sold, but he also bought. He acquired rare art books from his coworker G. Z. Dgebuadze for 250 dollars. The latter knew that this was an illegal currency transaction, but he took the dollars anyway.

The Netherlands citizen R. Funderink (SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA wrote about him in February of this year) and B. Rifkin, a USA citizen, who were on the Progress staff, had already fallen through and were exposed for anti-Soviet activity. The latter, along with translation work, provided "information" to the bourgeois press, but at the publishing house gave appearances that nothing had happened. And Peter-Pete continued to operate.

And what was he to be afraid of? The Progress had on a number of occasions given jobs to translators who had already compromised themselves by violations of Soviet laws and amoral behavior.

The session of the People's Court continues. A witness is being interrogated. A. A. Tsygankov, an artist at Moskontsert. A black-haired, extremely worn out man.

"Tell me, when and where did you meet D'Oriya?"

"In 1977, when I was in the Osipov orchestra when it was on tour in the USA. Peter attended all of our concerts. He is a great fan of folk music. He gave us several tortoise shell picks. At the end of the tour I sold him my domra for 200 dollars."

The deals were continued later in Moscow. Tsygankov obtained and ordered domras and balalaikas from craftsman for D'Oriya. Moreover, at Peter's request, the craftsmen made the instruments to appear as factory models. So he exported piece-goods and hand work under the guise of mass-produced items for which no export permission was required. Tsygankov was paid in dollars for his role as a go-between.

So, what distinguishes Tsygankov from a criminal? Or perhaps the question might be put this way: "for the present is there is a difference"?

The case against Dyachenko and D'Oriya proceeds. "A nightmare," exclaims the defendant Dyachenko. "Let me stay in your country," D'Oriya requests hypocritically.

Judge Nina Ivanovna Markina reads the sentence:

"In the name of the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic..."

On August 1, 1986 the People's Court sentenced S. G. Dyachenko to seven years of imprisonment, and P. T. D'Oriya was sentenced to an imprisonment term of three and one-half years. The property of the convicted persons is to be confiscated.

SOCIAL ISSUES

DISSIDENT 'TRADE UNION' BLASTED FOR PAST, PRESENT ACTIVITIES

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jul 86 p 3

[Article by R. Gegamyan, Brigadier of the Sovkhoz imeni Furmanov, Zhanadalinskiy Rayon, Turgay Oblast: "Miscalculation"]

[Text] I am holding an oblong envelope stamped "USA" and I am puzzled. What kind of a letter could this be? I don't have any relatives or acquaintances abroad, I only know of the United States of America by its location on the map, and I am not engaged in any foreign correspondence. The contents of the envelope explains it all. In it are anti-Soviet materials and a letter.

"Dear Friend," the anonymous author of the carbon copy letter announces. "We have taken your address from telephone books, newspapers, and other sources. The senders' addresses on our envelopes may not be the actual ones." Further on there are feigned confidential appeals for responses and in parentheses, the signature — National-Labor Union of Russian Solidarists.

I have seen and heard many different things in my long peasant life. But this is the first time I have ever heard of the National-Labor Union of Russian Solidarists. I went to the our village library and asked for an explanation from people who would know about such things. And... it was if I had become covered by muck.

The NIS is a moss-covered outgrowth of the so-called "white movement" which still dreams about the restoration of old pre-revolutionary Russia. It was as if there was a voice from the grave into which a free people had cast their oppressors a little more than sixty years ago. But why us, contemporary Soviet people? Why are the "NISers" sending us anonymous letters? This was all made clear by the contents of the materials which turned out to be disgusting, vile, and malevolent.

Having enlisted the aid of several literary renegades, dubious "professors" of economics and law, and feeble-minded foreign "Sovietologists", the NTS scorpions, with a persistence that might well be used for other purposes, are spinning a web of foul lies. Moreover, they don't hesitate to stretch the imagination or engage in outright distortions. White is called black and vice versa, facts are juggled, and generally accepted truths are distorted. They talk nonsense based on the idea that "the worse things are the better."

But we are no longer that naive now. Years of free, emancipated labor, years of training and the thorny path of learning, and the light of Leninist ideas have taught us a lot. Above all, we can distinguish between good and evil, between friend and foe, and between lies and the truth. So we know, gentlemen, that what you write are lies!

Let's start from the beginning. You accuse the Bolsheviks of terrorism during the first days of the revolution and of cruelty against various contras. But you know only too well that this was merely a response to the revelry of white terrorism, and that the Red Terror Decree was adopted only after lengthy discussions. Prophetic indeed were Vladimir Il'ich's words at that time that the only worthwhile revolution is one that can defend itself. So, the proletariat defended itself. One can read about this in any school textbook.

Likewise, there is nothing new in your information about repression during the years of the cult of the personality. These facts are also broadly known to the Soviet people from the materials of the 20th CPSU Congress which one can find in every library. The Party openly admitted to all the world that this was an error in the development of our society, all honest persons were then rehabilitated, and all persons guilty of wrongdoing were punished.

In the 1920s, the entire country came to the rescue of the persons suffering from starvation in the Volga area. According to your version, they were left to deal with that situation on their own. Complete nonsense. Adults, teenagers, and even children shared as much as they could with the starving of that time. It was quite another matter that we did not have that much to share. At that time individual material circumstances were severely curtailed by the first imperialist carnage, and later by the postwar ruin. Collections of overseas contributions were then organized. The great proletarian writer M. Gorkiy, in spite of illness, went out on fund-raising tours among his foreign readers. The singer F. Chaliapin sent his earnings. Also extending their hand of friendship were the Arctic explorer F. Nansen, the Danish writer M. Andersen Nexø, and the actress A. Duncan. Their memory still lives with us.

But here the NTS is capable only of evil. Its path has been one of betrayal, intrigue, dirty slander, and malicious attacks. Let's take a look at history. Even the very first NTS groups thoroughly prepared themselves for clandestine, hostile action against our state. Instructions from the center were issued by NTS Chairman Baydalakov to organize special courses for the study of weapons, subversion, and spy techniques. Why did the "peace-makers" and "peace-lovers", as the NISers liked to call themselves, need such a "secret operations" set-up? So that they could knife their own people in the back at a difficult time.

And that is the way it was in the struggle against fascism. Here is what former NTS council member and executive bureau member D. Brunst writes in his book "Notes of a Former Emigrant": "At a time when our brothers were fighting and dying on the battle fronts, when our mothers and fathers were starving to death in Leningrad, when our villages and cities were in flames, when our blood- and tear-drenched land was being trampled upon by the invaders and was gasping in struggle and torment beyond endurance, we at that time lived on German marks behind the fascist butchers and assisted them in their unprecedented crimes." It is no wonder that after all of this the "NISers" called the filthy traitor and betrayer Vlasov a "patriot of Russia." Betrayal has always been considered by all peoples to be the worst kind of evil. There is no justification for and there is no place among peoples for traitors. And here you "kindred souls" have gathered to honor a renegade. What can one write about that. Only that "he got what he deserved." The "NISers" could not suggest another. There are few who might support and share their ideas....

Perhaps the chiefs of imperialist intelligence services who are using the NTS for their own purposes. Emissaries of this criminal organization acclimated themselves in Spain in the drawing rooms of the Franco authorities and closed ranks with Italian fascists. A "secret" press was organized in Berlin not too long before the war and was financed by Japanese intelligence organizations. That press published anti-Soviet pamphlets. And to this very day the NTS is being fed crumbs from the table of the American CIA and other intelligence agencies. This is only too well illustrated by a case concerning the Englishman Brook who came to our country on a NIS assignment. The government prosecutor then directly declared:

"From the very first day of its birth the NTS has faithfully been our enemy. In the pre-war years the "union" supplied agents for the German, Japanese and other imperialist intelligence agencies for training and dispatching spies, saboteurs, and terrorists for action in the USSR.

It does not pay for the NTS to be represented in this light so it has attempted in its "messages" to dissociate itself from the West.

"Moderates" from the "union" try to assure us that "we are only supported by honest persons and certain public organizations that share our outlook." But "one cannot wash off the black spots of a dog." The facts of anti-Soviet activity weigh against the NTS. One can cite a number of instances where the "NTSers", by employing spy tactics, intrigue, bribery, and blackmail, have attempted to recruit Soviet citizens to its side.

The dispatching of an "enticing" letter to me was also dictated by an attempt at defamation and slight hope for a positive response. The name Gegamyan is frequently found in the press because I love to work and I love to invent. I have registered about 80 inventions and efficiency proposals concerned with wide-cutting machinery for soil treatment, mineral fertilizer application, and hay mowing in the virgin lands. Apparently someone is irritated by my work for the benefit of people, and so decided to use my name. But it didn't work out. We, Soviet people, are not shaken by anti-Soviet ravings.

Of what value is the NTS assertion that all of the peoples of the USSR are ostensibly deprived of free national development? How absurd! On the contrary, there is no other country in the world like the USSR in which people might live in positive harmony and in a unified aspiration to make all of their Homeland more beautiful and happier. Every day there are reports in the mass media about the rights struggle of USA negroes and Indians, about racial violence in the Republic of South Africa, the frustrations of the "coloreds" in Great Britain, etc. But here, like in a drop of water, the situation in our country is reflected in my tractor field-crop brigade. It has 37 persons of six nationalities: Russians, Ukrainians, Moldavians, Tatars, Armenians, and Bashkir. We are all united by the virgin lands which is our birthplace. I myself am from the first virgin soil peg. And although my brothers and mother live in Yerevan, I consider the Turgay to be my homeland.

We all work on equal footing and no one frustrates our interests. Each person is paid according to his work contribution and we all enjoy equal benefits. The Soviet system does not create the grounds for national distinctions.

The friendship between Russians and Armenians is deeply rooted in history. For many years my small country had been trampled by foreign invaders such as the Persians, the Turks, and other conquerors. Armenia's voluntary incorporation into Russia became our salvation from those conquerors. For some reason or other the "well-wishers" from NTS choose to remain silent about this. Why do they not recall the imperialism's most shameful act of genocide — the slaughter of Armenians — that was arranged seven decades ago. That was when one and one-half million innocent persons perished. And was anyone punished for this? No. But here the NTS is deeply troubled by the fate of a few traitors. They are ready to make "passion-martyrs" out of them, and they perversely term justified punishment as persecution.

This was a vain venture. The people will not be deceived.

My native Armenian literature has reached genuine flourishing heights. Dozens of books in the Armenian language and of the peoples of the USSR and the world are published every year. The book "The Life of Artemiy Araratskiy" came out five years ago as part of the prestigious USSR Academy of Sciences series "Literary Monuments." In that book the author, a native of the village Vagarshapat near Mount Ararat, Artemiy (Arutyun) Araratskiy wrote over 170 years ago: "The Russian state is the only one in which any newcomer or son of a foreign land can find for himself a most blessed asylum and live without fear...Thanks and blessings for the Russian land! I shall be faithful to it and serve it zealously to the day I die!"

It is therefore to no purpose that the NIS ringleaders are trying to drive a wedge between the friendly Soviet peoples. Nothing will ever come of that attempt. Our friendship has been sanctified by the ages. And in the hour of a severe ordeal, the treacherous German attack on our country, the entire nation rose to the defense of its Fatherland. My father Vano Gegamovich and all of his five brothers went to the front.

Here in the virgin soil, four of us, the Ukrainian Mikhail Konstantinovich Kudenko, the Russian Nikolay Ivanovich Umnov, the Moldavian Georgiy Diorditsa, and I, the Armenian, have together built a house in which we have been living for one year. Kudenko had many children, then one more child was born. So we then decided to let his family occupy the entire house. And our sovkhos imeni Furmanov will build housing for us. For example, I was presented with a six-room apartment with all the communal facilities. Each of my three children has his own room.

The central farmstead of the sovkhos, the village Birsuat, has become one of the prettiest hamlets on the Turgay virgin lands. It began with four heated shelters, but now numbers hundreds of homes. The village is resplendent in greenery and the streets are paved. There is cafeteria, a trade center, and a club. Everything that people need.

Thus is the reality of our Soviet way of life. We would not change it for any other. So, gentlemen from NIS, don't try to do so. You would only be wasting paper. We do not know you and we do not want to know you.

5289

CSO: 1830/696

KaSSR: TRIAL CENSUS IN DECEMBER 1986

Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 4 Jul 86 p 4

[Article by Kazakh SSR Central Statistical Administration Deputy Chief S. Naymushina: "Preparing for the Population Census"]

[Text] Another all-union census will be carried out in January 1989 in connection with the significant changes that occurred in the last decade and a half in the size, composition and territorial distribution of the country's population. As before, the responsibilities of preparing for and conducting the census are borne by the USSR Central Statistical Administration and its organs in the republics, krais, oblasts, cities and rayons. To test the draft program for the census and to work out the organizational problems, statistical organs were also ordered to carry out a trial census in 1986-1987 in certain rayons and cities, covering approximately 800,000 persons. It will occur in our republic in December 1986 in Tyulkubasskiy Rayon, Chimkent Oblast.

Everyone knows how important the political and national economic significance of censuses is. Providing detailed data, they help us to gain a clear picture of changes occurring in the development of society, and to determine new paths for our movement forward. Following the Great Patriotic War censuses were carried out in 1959, 1970 and 1979. From now on, regular censuses will be conducted every 10 years.

The USSR Council of Ministers decree on conducting an all-union census in 1989 requires all state statistical services to display high activity and organization in this important work. The republic's Central Statistical Administration is presently putting the finishing touches on the draft program for the census and on the list of questions that will be posed to citizens. The USSR Central Statistical Administration will approve this program after the materials of the trial census are processed and analyzed. Many questions in the 1989 census will be similar to questions asked in the preceding census. That one had 16 questions, of which 11 were answered by the entire population (the blanket census) and 5 of which were answered by 25 percent of the population (the selective census). Now the number of questions in the trial census will rise to 24.

There are plans for asking a separate question in the program of the future census in connection with growth of the level of vocational and technical

training of young workers: "Did you graduate from a vocational-technical training institution?" There are also plans for expanding information on marital status--de facto and de jure. And to permit deeper analysis of the population's migration, a wording that was employed in a selective social and demographic survey of the population carried out in 1985 will be used. Its purpose is essentially to clarify this: If the individual had not been living in the given place since his birth, from what population center (urban or rural) had he come? We will be able to use the answers to learn something about the directions of movement of the population.

A large group of the questions (seven of them, all being the first questions asked) are intended to reveal living conditions. The course adopted by the party and government toward fundamental improvement of living conditions has required that they be studied and documented with the greatest urgency. The data we obtain will be used to arrive at an assessment of the demand for housing space.

In order to correctly apportion the population into urban and rural, before 1 June 1987 we will have to update the list of urban population centers and the boundaries of urban settlements, and firm up street names and the square, house and apartment numbers within them. Then prior to the beginning of 1988 these data will be used to update or draw up new cartographic materials--plans of urban settlements and large towns, and maps of the rayons. The correctness and completeness of the current records on people residing in urban and rural areas must be confirmed by the same deadline. Rayon and city lands will be subdivided on the basis of these materials into accounting and instructor's parcels and into census divisions, which will ensure organized conduct of the census and full canvassing of all population centers and citizens living therein.

Workers of enterprises, institutions and organizations will be recruited for specific periods--from 18 days to 3.5 months--to prepare and conduct the census. As an example in 1979 around 60,000 persons were selected and approved by the executive committees of soviets of peoples deputies and trained. This figure includes persons selected as alternates. Over 49,000 persons actually took the census.

The functions of census workers were determined in accordance with the established norms. In 8 days in 1979, each census taker interviewed an average of 580 persons in urban settlements and 480 persons in rural areas. Instructor-controllers, who organized the work of four or five census takers, verified the completeness and correctness of the responses on the census sheets. Moreover spot checks were made in the course of the census, and after it. Control measures promoting accurate accounting of the population will be implemented once again in the forthcoming all-union census.

The assistance of party committees, of soviet and economic organs, of trade unions, the Komsomol and various social organizations will doubtlessly help to ensure successful conduct of the all-union census. The work of commissions for assistance to the census, created under the republic Council of Ministers, the executive committees of the local soviets, large enterprises and construction projects, sovkhozes, kolkhozes, institutions and schools will also provide considerable support to us.

REGIONAL ISSUES

GEORGIAN DIGNITARIES VISIT RESETTLED MESKHETIANS

Tbilisi KOMUNISTI in Georgian 2 Sep 86 p 2

[Article by Georgian Academy of Sciences Corresponding-Member Mariam Lortkipanidze and Writers Union Secretary Lasha Tabukashvili: "Let the Mother Tongue Light Your Way!"]

[Text] There are various degrees of rejoicing.

Yesterday brought a truly special rejoicing to youngsters whose parents lived for so long outside our republic but are now returning to their native land, at their own request.

They are, by origin, from Meskheta. Now they have put down roots in Nasakirali [Makharadze rayon], Narudzha [unknown], Khetsera [unknown], Akhalsheni [Tsulukidze], Bandza [Gegechkori], Tskhramukha [unknown], Lesichine [Chkhorotsku], Gedzheti [Tskhakaia], and Kopitnari [unknown]. Yesterday in Kopitnari, little Meskhadians hurried off to school, a brand-new one, clutching their "Deda Ena" [Mother Tongue, the Georgian first-grade primer].

It was indeed a wonderful, unforgettable day!

Some time prior to the first day of school, the Meskhadian settlers in Lopitnari were visited by scholars, writers, and public figures from Tbilisi, who wished them well in their new home and pledged support in their future endeavors.

The following letter, published herein, is one echo of that memorable meeting.

Dear Meskhadians!

Young Meskhadians of Nasakirali, Narudzha, Narazeni [Zugdidi rayon], Khetsera, Lopitnari, Akhalsheni, Bandza, Gedzheti, Lesichine, and Tskhramukha!

You young Ibragimovs, Matanovs, Iskanderovs, Bakhrievs: you are now going to Georgian schools and know that your ancestral names are Chkheidze, Metonidze, Kuradze, Molidze, Chitadze!

From this day forth, dear little ones, you will share in the sacred mother tongue and lay the foundation of your future patriotism, which our homeland so greatly needs.

A man is judged fortunate and enriched when he learns a foreign language and comes to know another culture. How fortunate you are, our dear young compatriots, for the blessed time has come when, thanks to your fine teachers and your own diligence, you are to master the language which, besides the fact that it is your ancestral tongue, is also the language of Kustaveli [Georgian national 12th-century epic poet], Saba [18th-century fabulist, diplomat, and lexicographer], Ilia [19th-century statesman and man of letters], Akaki [19th-century classic poet], Vazha [19th-20th-century rustic poet], and Galaktioni [poet of Soviet era].

The fact that you are only now beginning to learn Georgian is not your fault, nor your fathers' and grandfathers'; it is due to the adversity of our history.

When you grow up you will learn that Meskheta, the cradle of Georgian culture and the homeland of Grigol Khandzteli [9th-century monk and statesman], Rustaveli, the Atonelis [10th-century monks associated with Mount Athos], and Mikheil Tamarashvili [19th-century historian], was seized by Turkey in the 16th century, and Samtskhe-Saatabago [an alternate name of the district] was turned into the Akhaltsikhe Pashalyk. But even several centuries of captivity could not destroy your forefathers' sense of Georgianness, and thanks to their indomitable spirit, you--their descendants--are returning today to your native roots.

But returning to Georgia and learning your native language should not cause you to forget the place where you learned to walk and where your parents lived several decades, for a true Georgian is always respectful and loving toward all other nations' spiritual heritage.

May the beginning of your long road in a new life be happy and blessed!

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REGIONAL ISSUES

ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF TuSSR DESERT REGIONS URGED

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 16 May 86 p 2

[Article by A. Batyrov, candidate of geographical sciences, under the heading: "Problems and Discussions": "Comprehensive Exploitation of Desert Regions"]

[Text] The main feature of the concept of accelerating the country's socio-economic development, the pivotal point of the program documents adopted by the 27th CPSU Congress, is a comprehensive approach to the solution of full-fledged problems. The results of our management depend to a significant degree on how wisely we exploit the natural resources and climatic peculiarities of the desert regions; on whether their economic potential is brought into the nation's overall economic complex in a rational manner. It goes without saying that we must consider the differences in the level of economic assimilation of the territory, and the character of the natural-climatic, economic, social, and other conditions. This is not an abstract theoretical question, but a real problem of the present day.

Nature has decreed that the primary profile for Turkmenistan is the desert. Oases, the most economically-assimilated regions of the republic, comprise a mere four percent of its territory. But in the desert regions a process of focused, selective assimilation of their resources is in progress. Right up to the 1950's the economy of the desert was developed to a significant degree on an extensive basis. It was widely known as a major supplier of cheap astrakhan fur, wool and meat.

The growth of the economic potential of the republic's deserts is currently being carried on primarily in the following directions:

- increasing the irrigated areas in the zone of the Karakum, Soviet-Yab and other canals, and raising their productivity;
- expanding the areas of exploitation of mineral resources of the Karakum, which are becoming important to the entire nation (gas, oil, certain kinds of chemical raw materials, and so on);
- further development of power engineering (the Mary State Regional Electric Power Station, and others), which support acceleration of the economic exploitation of all the desert resources (which is especially important from the point of view of scientific-technical progress), as well as agro-industrial branches of nationwide and intra-republic specialization;

- establishing new urban and rural populated areas;
- and, solving the transport problem by means of constructing new gas pipelines, aquaducts, and modern highways.

All of this, along with raising the region's economic potential, is also becoming extremely important from the point of view of demography and increasing intra-rayon population concentration as well.

The program documents of the 27th CPSU Congress reveal the possibilities and the means for radically accelerating the country's socio-economic development. In this connection, with respect to the conditions in our republic, one should expect the desert regions to play an increased role as regions of new development. But at the same time one must devote special attention here to long-term forecasts of the consequences of natural processes in the tracts in which man is actively influencing the natural environment. In the complex and, I would say, multi-system work on opening up the desert lands, problems of forecasting must also be resolved. One must approach the assimilation of desert lands according to the principle: "Measure seven times; for you can cut only once."

One can cite a long list of examples which show how uncoordinated work in exploiting desert resources in a number of cases can retard progress. For example, construction enterprises in the republic's desert regions are dispersed among different ministries and departments of both national and republic subordination--which leads to involuntary duplication of production, inefficient and quite often irrational use of material and labor resources, and a great deal of back-and-forth and parallel shipments. You see, every department operates independently in its exploitation of desert resources, without considering a comprehensive approach to the solution of other full-fledged problems.

Bureaucracy, which is based on the selfish principle, "It's better to have your own cat, than to share a camel," clearly demonstrates that in taking a disconnected approach to exploiting desert resources we are dealing with a clear violation of the economic law of concentration of production, which is fraught with consequences.

To succeed in improving economic relations in opening up such a vast area as the desert regions in our republic, a "Pustynya" [Desert] regional scientific-research and technical program is required, oriented toward studying problems of the comprehensive exploitation of the resources of the desert regions and their socio-economic development. A program such as this would serve as an integral, regional part of the long-term program for scientific-technical progress in the Turkmen SSR.

It goes without saying that solving such a problem requires consolidation of efforts and joint research projects by economists, economic geographers, sociologists, geomorphologists, geologists, engineers, ecologists, lawyers, and other specialists. Underestimating the importance of having an advance, clear-cut strategy for exploiting regions with such extreme conditions as the desert regions leads to large, unjustified losses and expenses.

The narrow, disconnected approach to opening up the Khauz-Khan tract in the Kara-Kum Canal zone, location of up to 10 percent of the republic's irrigated lands, can serve as a clear example in this respect. Here they have not solved the problem of populating a tract which was opened long ago, and they are not properly supervising the rate of construction. Incidentally, on this vast desert territory now under development, nine virgin lands sovkhozes, the Khauz-Khan Hydraulic Engineering Trust with its seven subunits, and other construction organizations from a great variety of departments are already in operation. And this is in addition to the multitude of brigades and "branches" from the kolkhozes situated in the remote, long-irrigated part of the Murgabskiy Oasis. But there is no single manager, even in the form of a new administrative-territorial region, for that vast tract.

Such a disconnected and narrow approach to solving the problems of assimilation is also observed in the Kazandzhikskiy and Kizyl-Arvatkiy Rayons. And you see, Amu-Darya waters came to these highly-valued regions long ago. Operating here are sections of PMK-30 [Mobile Mechanized Column], whose administrative office is in Mary; PMK-32, controlled from Tedzhen; and PMK-26, whose administrative office is in Geok-Tep. Is it not possible to set up a "Glavkarakumstroy" [Main Kara-Kum Construction Administration] in the areas of new assimilation where one or two large independent subunits are operating; based, for example, on a sector of the Kizyl-Arvatstroy SMU [Kizyl-Arvat Construction and Installation Administration], in order to move the management closer to the places where the labor is performed? In the Kizyl-Arvatkiy and Kazandzhikskiy Rayons there are subunits and other land-development organizations, whose main bases are located hundreds of kilometers away from the actual area of operations.

A unified, scientifically-sound administration which coordinates with the territorial administrative organs, which plans all stages from top to bottom and has a long-term strategy for developing the desert regions, would allow all interested land-development organizations to express themselves in raising the economic potential of the desert to a qualitatively new level. The current choice of strategy would permit planning the exploitation of mineral-raw material, land, cattle feed and other resources of the desert for the development of the republic as a whole in harmonious conditions. At the same time expenses and losses would be much less, and economic effectiveness would increase in a multitude of ways.

Clearly, putting into effect regional comprehensive programs for economic and social development also presumes strengthening the role of the local organs, and above all that of the Soviets of People's Deputies. Moreover, the role of the Soviets, as the single manager on their territories for economic and cultural construction, was clearly spelled out in the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress.

9006
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REGIONAL ISSUES

WESTERN TuSSR DEVELOPMENT EXAMINED

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 14 Jun 86 p 2

[Article by G. Muradov, director, Economics Institute, TuSSR Academy of Sciences: "Conduct Comprehensive Research Projects"]

[Text] Implementing the decisions of our party's 27th Congress requires maximum mobilization of reserves and effective use of natural and economic resources. The experience of many working collectives, which are actively involved in reconstruction and thoroughly understand it clearly, demonstrates how much can be achieved if available resources are employed in a business-like manner, and if the problems connected with accelerating scientific-technical progress are solved intelligently and energetically.

And there are a great many resources. Just take the western part of the republic. The significance of the region is determined by its potential in the future. And if one does not define precisely its position in the republic and nationwide division of labor today, as well as the ways and means of achieving the goals, tomorrow it will be more difficult to do so. It will be necessary to correct our mistakes or make up for our omissions.

There are hundreds of thousands of hectares of fertile lands in this region. Vast areas are situated in the dry subtropic zone. But water resources here are extremely limited. And this is what has determined the fate of agricultural production. It is concentrated primarily near the rather small sources of fresh water, and currently comprises only about three percent of the republic's production in all.

Studying and summarizing the scientific and planning documents shows that in conditions of scientific-technical progress, agricultural production in the region can be expanded to a scale that will permit not only satisfying the republic's internal needs, but also supplying a number of the most valuable products for nationwide consumption. Even today the prospects for developing agriculture in this zone require working out special-purpose programs for organizing an agro-industrial complex here.

Assimilation of new lands has currently begun in the western regions. But does the specialization of the farms and the structure of production correspond with the future development plans? These problems arise primarily because the plan developed over 20 years ago for assimilating the lands in the zone of the fourth stage of construction of the Karakum Canal do not meet the needs of the present day.

Moreover, instead of working out systems of organizational, economic, technical and technological measures in a timely fashion, quite often arbitrary, fragmentary decisions have been taken on separate, uncoordinated questions; and there was no purposeful, comprehensive study made of all the interrelated and interdependent scientific-technical problems of the development of the region's agriculture. And look at the result: the long-awaited water, of which people had dreamed for centuries, arrived in the Western regions, but the farms turned out to be unprepared for it. Today the effectiveness of the use of irrigation water is low. The situation with respect to using irrigated lands is even worse.

What's the matter? Don't the people of Krasnovodsk understand the value of water? No, you can't say that. They understand its value as so one else can, for it is namely here that "a drop of water is as a grain of gold." The fact of the matter is that mismanagement displayed on a number of the kolkhoses and sovkholes opening up new lands is exacerbated by the lack of experience and the inexperience of a number of responsible persons and their organizations. How else can you explain the fact that from the first, when it was years, and later only days before the arrival of the water, neither the former Ministry of Agriculture nor the local organs took the required measures to train cadres in the mass occupations for working in the irrigated area by means of retraining them on the spot or by sending groups of young country people to the republic's most progressive farms for special course work. In solving these questions neither the VM's nor the vocational-technical schools, nor the specialized secondary schools showed any initiative. And you see, in the traditionally animal-raising region, prior experience and knowledge of exploiting irrigated lands was sorely lacking. At present the effectiveness of agricultural production here remains very low.

During the years of the 11th Five Year Plan, with growth of fixed capital in agriculture by more than 25 percent, and a 20.6 percent increase in the capital-labor ratio, gross production declined by 6.1 percent, and later productivity fell by 12.2 percent. Commentary, as they say, is unnecessary. Such a situation requires taking the most urgent measures, and primarily for training and retraining the cadres.

Local state agro-industrial organs, together with scientific institutions, must become actively involved in training and retraining agricultural specialists in Krasnovodsk Oblast by means of holding well-planned, short-term seminars on the facilities of the most progressive farms in the republic's irrigated zone, and on the spot. In Kizyl-Arvat it would make sense to set up a permanently-operating school for raising the skill-levels of the cadres in the agro-industrial system. The theoretical and practical problems studied at the seminars must coincide with the cycles of field work already underway as well as the coming cycles. In our view, the training and retraining of cadres must be done under the close supervision of the republic's state agro-industrial authorities; for here we are dealing with the formation of the human factor.

"You can't get anything done by sitting down on the job," the popular saying goes. Long before the arrival of the water the local organs should have been studying all available scientific and planning documents connected with

the irrigation problem. And at the same time they should have requested that specific scientific-technical and technological projects be worked up, with respect to the rational use of land and water resources, including specialization and concentration of production; its disposition; combining industrial branches; introducing modern technology, which permits carrying on intensive agricultural production; and a strict water conservation policy.

Inertness is inherent in many scientific institutions as well, since they also bear responsibility for technical policy in the agrarian sector of the economy.

Meanwhile, science has to stay far ahead of production. The republic-level state agro-industrial committee should immediately get together with specialists from the hydrometeorological service, hydraulic engineers and scientists, to discuss questions of organizing an extensive system of experimental bases on the territory of Krasnovodsk Oblast, as well as plots for experimenting with plant varieties, and support bases. Without conducting years of multifaceted experimental work in various zones of the western region one cannot correctly solve the most important problems of rational disposition of agricultural crops while taking into consideration the biological peculiarities of the plants--for example, determining how fine-fibred varieties of cotton behave in the lowland plains of the Kizyl-Arvatsky and Kazandzhikskiy Rayons, where steady, strong winds do considerable damage to sown crops. This specific natural phenomenon must be considered with respect to other agricultural crops as well.

In our opinion the republic state agro-industrial committee must be the initiator, the organizer and coordinator for conducting scientific and planning work on the basis of a unified special-purpose program. Life itself dictates the necessity for examining and solving questions of building up and expanding the experimental plots which already exist in this zone, as well as the experimental bases of the republic and national scientific-research institutions.

The effectiveness of the scientific research institutions here, which are not yet very large, must be increased. The well-known fundamental works of the Kara-Kalinskaya Experimental Station of VIR VASKhNIL USSR (Order of Lenin and Order of Friendship of the Nations All-Union Horticultural Scientific Research Institute imeni N.I. Vavilov, of the USSR All Union Order of Lenin Academy of Agricultural Sciences imeni V.I. Lenin) can serve as a reliable basis for this work. Its rather small staff can be justifiably proud not only of their scientific works, but also of their successful introduction. At first a branch of the All Union Institute of Subtropical Crops could be set up on the facilities of the base and later on, an independent institute could be established. A school can and must be set up there, or a specialized secondary school for horticulturalists, as well as nursery farms and support bases in the southwest and central zone of Krasnovodsk Oblast.

One can take little comfort in what has been achieved to date. As the 27th CPSU Congress stressed, the reconstruction of agricultural production requires new approaches to the realization of the capabilities of the

scientific research institutions. Scientists from both the academy of sciences and those in the industrial branches and VUZ's in the republic must be given their due, for they have done a great deal. However, owing to a lack of proper coordination, the necessary comprehensiveness was not achieved in the research projects, which in turn had an adverse effect on introducing the results of the scientific projects.

I believe that in order to avoid repeating the previous mistakes and omissions, the republic state agro-industrial committee must make a clear-cut determination of the coordinators responsible for comprehensive scientific projects and for consistently solving the scientific-technical and technological problems, where solutions can be found for the urgent problems of developing the promising western region of the republic.

The Basic Directions for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR stipulate high growth rates. Accelerating development requires rational use of land and water resources, and increasing the effectiveness of agricultural production--the basis for the agro-industrial complex. Against this background, the western region must be given the most careful attention.

9006

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REGIONAL ISSUES

TURKMEN STATISTICAL ADMINISTRATION WORK VIEWED

Ashkhabad TURKMENSKAYA ISKRA in Russian 23 May 86 p 2

[Article by Candidate of Economic Sciences M. Razhapov, chief, TuSSR Central Statistical Administration, under the heading: "The Economic Mechanism: the Levers of Acceleration": "Improve Accounting and Reporting"]

[Text] Our national economy is developed on a planned basis; therefore, without strict accounting it is impossible to develop the economy and plan for the future. "Socialism is above all accounting," wrote V.I. Lenin.

In the light of the decisions of the 27th CPSU Congress the obligations of the statistical organs have been greatly increased. The Congress requires an increased role for accounting, statistics and control in support of rational and economical use of resources, and in intensifying the struggle with mismanagement and waste. This is a significant program of action for the ministries and departments as well, inasmuch as they are the ones who supply statistical information on their branches.

Quite a bit has been done in our republic to ensure that statistics support in the best possible manner the requirements of managing the economy. For these purposes a great deal of work is being accomplished to improve the activities of the state statistical organs, and to improve organization of accounting and reporting in the ministries and departments, at industrial enterprises and building projects, and on kolkhozes and sovkhoses. Practical measures are also being taken to improve statistics themselves--in order that they not be unwieldy, and that they meet the growing needs of economic development. However, there are no grounds for complacency with respect to what has been achieved. In order to completely bring statistics to bear in solving the most important tasks, everything that hinders consistent and fruitful work must be cast off. Statistical information must be as concise as possible, while at the same time it must be comprehensive and exhaustive in terms of its content; and, statistics must truly reflect the efforts of the party, government, and the workers in putting into practice the grandiose program of creating communism, during the 12th Five Year Plan and the period up to the year 2000.

Under the new conditions the state statistical organs are faced with the task of improving statistical monitoring of the pace of fulfilling the Basic Directions of Economic and Social Development of the Republic; as well as the five-year and annual plans, and socialist obligations. The interests of the matter require developing economic analysis and information on the most

important problems of the national economy--accelerating scientific-technical progress; introducing new equipment and technology to production; structural reorganization of the economy; and, adopting effective methods of management. It is important to put an end to creating paperwork; to increase the quality and effectiveness of economic projects; to radically increase responsibility for authenticity; and to not permit such negative phenomena as eyewash, coverups, exaggerating results upwards, and so on. As V.I. Lenin instructed, we must always seek the truth in every way, no matter what it is. This is Lenin's testament; it is the guiding standard of our lives; the values and the essence of economic projects are found therein.

Embellishment and fraud are incompatible with the principles of socialist management. They bring both economic and moral harm to society. And this is why the state statistical organs are taking decisive measures to intensify control over the authenticity of reporting data, and to put a stop to negative factors. Toward this end, for example, inspections were conducted at 1,800 projects in the republic's national economy. Quite a few instances of distortion of accounting data were discovered, especially in the systems of Minlegprom [Ministry of Light Industry], Gosagroprom [State Agro-Industrial Committee], Minkomkhoz [Ministry of Municipal Services], Mintorg [Ministry of Trade], and Minbyt [Ministry of Consumer Services]. Thus, the ministries and departments as well as the state statistical authorities must intensify the struggle with any and all kinds of distortion in state statistical reporting; they must take a more principled, aggressive position, and ward off any manifestation of local interests in evaluating the negative phenomena; they must not allow the guilty parties to go unpunished; and they must take fuller advantage of the rights and means granted them, to prevent similar incidents.

In recent years the TuSSR TsSU [Central Statistical Administration] has been steadily striving to simplify accounting and reporting, and to eliminate the excess flow of paperwork in the ministries and departments. A certain reduction has been achieved in the paper flow. However, on the whole, statistical reporting is still unbelievably unwieldy. In addition to state statistical reporting, certain ministries and departments are introducing a large amount of operational reporting and accounting along the lines of automated control systems. The volume of this accounting quite often exceeds that of the state accounting. And this is nothing other than an attempt by the administrators to solve, with the aid of reporting from the center, problems of the current operational activity of their enterprises.

The shameful practice of gathering so-called "illegal statistics" is still going on. In the last year alone, state statistical authorities uncovered incidents of illegal statistical reporting in 11 ministries and departments in the republic, on 104 forms, containing over 440,000 indicators. The systems of Gosagroprom, Mintorg, Ministroy [Ministry of Construction], Minkomkhoz and Glavkarakumstroy [Kara-Kum Main Construction Administration] have a special affinity for gathering such statistics. As a result, enterprises, organizations, kolkhozes and sovkhoses are wasting tons of time and effort on compiling various accounts, reports, and reference materials.

The abundant flow of illegal information merely gives rise to confusion, irresponsibility, and lack of faith in the actual state of affairs. The duty and the responsibility of the ministries, departments, and ispolkoms of oblast, city and rayon Soviets of People's Deputies are to disclose and eliminate statistical reporting not approved in accordance with established procedures; and to forbid the associations, enterprises and organizations to present such reports.

Everyone knows that the procedure in statistical accounting begins with the primary statistics; however, numerous instances of neglect have been discovered in this matter, as well as violations of procedure for completing official accounting documents and the use of obsolete forms. All of this creates conditions for mismanagement, misappropriation, exaggeration and eyewash; and it prevents the introduction of electronic computers for processing the materials on accounting and statistical reporting.

One of the principal reasons for such a state of affairs is the fact that many ministries and departments have not yet introduced standardized forms for initial documentation at their enterprises, institutions and organizations. This was the topic of discussion at a republic-level meeting last September. But the state of affairs has not improved. No changes whatsoever have taken place in Minmestprom [Ministry of Local Industry], Minavto-trans [Ministry of Motor Transport], Minsvyazi [Ministry of Communications], Goskino [State Committee for Cinematography], Goskomgaz [State Committee for Gas Supply], Goskomizdat [State Committee for Publishing Houses, Printing Plants, and the Book Trade], and Turkmenglavenergo [Main Administration of Power and Electrification TuSSR].

At the present stage of a radical turnabout in the methods of managing the economy, strictest observation of the periods for submitting statistical reports to the state, and improving their quality, are becoming extremely urgent. However, at many industrial enterprises, organizations, ministries and departments, an unacceptable practice has taken root of submitting the statistical information very late, and then with mistakes at that. Systematically failing to meet the deadlines for submitting the accounting data are Ministroymaterialov [Ministry of Construction Materials Industry], Minlegprom, Minmestprom, Minbyt and Ministroy. Such an operating style can no longer be tolerated--after all this makes it impossible to submit statistical information on a timely basis to the directive, planning and economic organs, or to carry out thorough analysis for working out recommendations for timely elimination of shortcomings and neglect in economic activities.

In order to improve matters, a section of each ministry and department must be designated for accounting and statistical reporting, under the supervision of the deputy minister. Only in this way can responsibility be increased and depersonalization halted in such an important matter as accounting and reporting. It would appear to make sense, in summing up the results of socialist competition and determining the winner, to take into consideration the state of accounting and reporting, and consider that one of the basic indicators of the work of the ministries, departments, enterprises and organizations.

Supplying skilled personnel to the statistical organs as well as to the ministries and departments plays quite an important role in improving accounting and reporting and in raising the level of statistical reports. Unfortunately, as of this time the republic still has not resolved the question of training specialists in this career field, although the need for them is very great. An urgent requirement has come about for training such specialists at the TuSSR Institute of the National Economy.

Under present day conditions of a radically increased need for quality and operational efficiency of statistical information, widespread introduction of electronic computers for mechanization of accounting and reporting is becoming extremely urgent. At the present time, 35 computer centers and stations have been set up for these purposes in the system of TsSU TuSSR, whose services are used by more than 800 enterprises, organizations, kol-khozes and sovkhozes. Introducing mechanization reduces to zero the large proportion of manual labor which still exists in statistical accounting, and greatly reduces the time for processing the documentation. However, a number of central bookkeeping organizations at ministries and departments prefer to operate in the old way, and are not concerned about mechanization of operations or adoption of modern electronic computers.

All of these instances testify to the fact that in the matter of improving accounting and statistical reporting there are still a great many shortcomings and unrealized possibilities. Life demands that the state statistical authorities, the ministries, departments and economic organs combine their efforts. Only under such conditions can the statistical organs successfully perform the tasks levied on them.

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